

Minister backs wider choice

Clarke points to comeback of the grammar school

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE Conservative party sprung a pre-election surprise yesterday by signalling the return of grammar schools as part of a more diverse state education system.

In a significant shift of direction, Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, said he would have "no problem" with one grant-maintained school in 10 becoming a grammar school.

More than 2,000 local authority schools are expected to consider opting out, giving them the opportunity to apply to become grammar schools, if the Conservatives win the general election. Mr Clarke used the BBC's *On The Record* programme to placate Tory hardliners, who have been pressing for a return to selective education. He indicated that grammar

schools could reappear throughout the country, as long as there were not too many in each area.

He has always opposed a return to the mix of grammar and secondary modern schools created by the 1944 Education Act, and he reiterated that he would not contemplate a two-tier system. Almost 150 grammar schools are left in England and Wales, but others wanting to select pupils on academic ability need the education secretary's permission.

Mr Clarke said: "I have no objection to the re-emergence of grammar schools, if that is what parents want... Parents will decide, schools will decide. I am responding to their demands as they set out the separate characteristics they want to adopt."

The stigma attached to secondary modern schools would be avoided through the growth of technological schools and others with different specialisms. "We have got to get away from the idea that the only good education is an academic education, and the only good qualification is an academic one."

Robert Balchin, chairman of the Grant Maintained Schools' Trust, said that few of the schools opting out were aiming to become selective, but between 5 and 10 per cent might do so under a new Tory government. "A school builds up a specific kind of ethos, and some children will not be suited to that particular ethos, so it is right that they should not go there."

Both government critics and supporters have seen selection as a logical outcome of the reforms now before Parliament. League tables of schools' results are likely to encourage head teachers to seek the most able pupils to improve their rating.

Lord Griffiths of Forest-fach, chairman of the School Examinations and Assessment Council, said: "I think that if you give parents real choice in the system, it is inevitable that the schools will demand to choose the kind of pupils that come."

Opposition parties and some teachers' unions have long feared that opting out

would lead to the re-emergence of grammar schools. Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, said: "The Conservatives are paralysed on this issue because they know that the reintroduction of selection at 11 is not wanted by the majority of parents. It shows how bankrupt Mr Clarke's approach to education is that the only new idea he can come up with was discarded by Margaret Thatcher 20 years ago."

The National Union of Teachers said that grammar schools prevented many children fulfilling their potential. "The government's instinct seems always to be to ignore the facts and act on their prejudices."

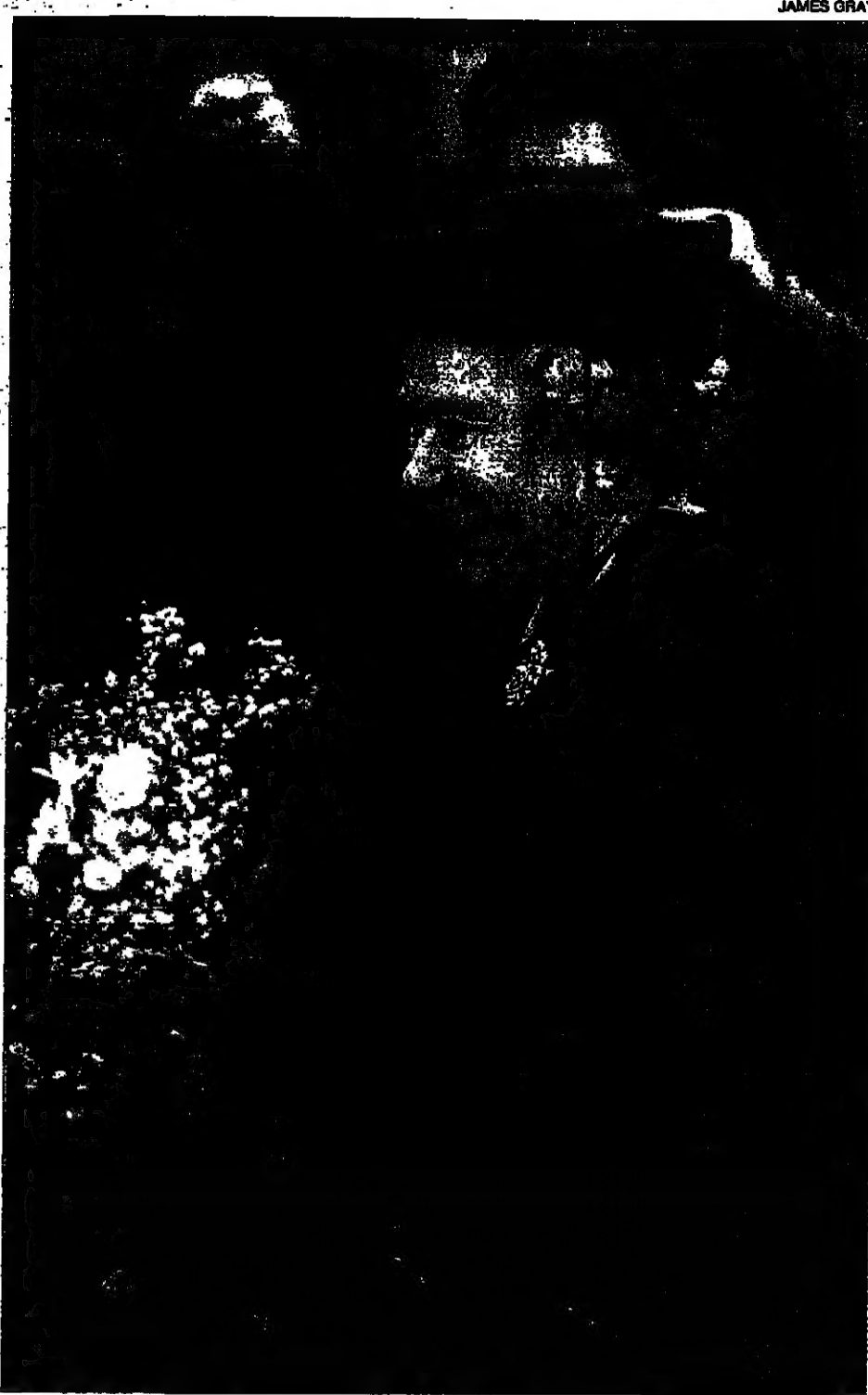
David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said that he doubted grant-maintained schools would demand selection. "This is diametrically opposed to what the vast majority of grant-maintained school heads are saying to me."

Mr Clarke was at the centre of a second controversy yesterday when Mr Straw called for an enquiry into his handling of the government's examination of primary school teaching. Professor Robin Alexander, of Leeds University, who led the "three wise men" who reported last month, said his report had been hijacked by politicians and misinterpreted by the media.

Mr Straw cast doubt on the role played by Mr Clarke and Chris Woodhead, chief executive of the National Curriculum Council and one of the enquiry team. "We need to know more about claims that Chris Woodhead was the voice of Mr Clarke on the enquiry."

The Labour party yesterday promised that it would let Muslim schools apply for voluntary-aided status. Derek Fatchner, a Labour education spokesman, said on BBC Radio: "We will give a greater cultural reference in all our schools and I think maybe we'll treat much more sympathetically any applications that are forthcoming."

Education Times, Life & Times pages 7, 9



The Queen at West Newton church, near Sandringham, where she was given flowers yesterday to mark the 40th anniversary on Thursday of her accession

Labour cries conspiracy over Kinnock 'Kremlin smear'

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEIL Kinnock was yesterday at the centre of a political dogfight over his attitudes during the early 1980s towards the Soviet Union and the miners' strike after newspaper publication of Kremlin files allegedly detailing his views.

As Labour raised the profile of the affair by accusing John Major of giving the go-ahead for the dirtiest election campaign of the century, David Mellor infuriated its leaders further by saying that the files underlined their "craven and cringing" approach to the Soviet Union at the height of

the Cold War. Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, accused Mr Mellor of having called into question Mr Kinnock's patriotism, and challenged Chris Patten, the Tory party chairman, to disown the Treasury chief secretary.

In ill-tempered exchanges on BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*, Mr Patten rejected Mr Hattersley's interpretation, saying that it was Mr Kinnock's judgment, not his patriotism, that had been called into question by the report in *The Sunday Times*. Mr Hattersley said that the Tory tactics were clear: Mr Major kept his hands clean while the "rougher and tougher" members of the cabinet sniped at Mr Kinnock's loyalty to his country.

The election phoney war erupted after a detailed report on Labour's relations with the Kremlin in the Brezhnev era, culled from copies of diplomatic telegrams from the Soviet embassy in London to the now disbanded central committee of the Communist party in Moscow. They were allegedly based on meetings over five years between prominent Labour figures such as Mr Kinnock, Michael Foot and Denis Healey and Soviet diplomats.

Moscow was told of Mr Kinnock's hostility to Margaret Thatcher's deployment of US nuclear missiles in Britain and to her trade union laws. He told Viktor Popov, the Soviet ambassador, in 1984 that Mrs Thatcher had frightened the British people to the limits, but they were now prepared to resist like the

defenders of Stalingrad. Arthur Scargill, the miners' leader, had shown himself a poor general, Mr Kinnock allegedly said.

David Hill, Labour's communications director, got wind of the story on Friday and launched a swift pre-emptive strike against a "smear" story involving collusion between Conservative Central Office and its supporters in the press.

In the face of denials by Andrew Neil, editor of *The Sunday Times*, Gerald Kaufman raised the stakes yesterday by accusing the prime minister of pulling the strings. He said that Mr Major had coined a new slogan: "A smear a day keeps the truth away."

The Conservatives moved swiftly to exploit the opportunity and to suggest that Labour's "over-reaction" was evidence that its nerve was cracking under the pre-election strain. One cabinet minister suggested that Labour had scored an own goal by making such a fuss. It had ensured that the story would run on into the week, and with the ending of the Cold War back in the headlines after Mr Major's UN summit meeting, gave the electorate a further reminder of Labour's past weakness on defence.

But senior Labour officials said that their counter-attack had been vindicated by the way they had shifted attention on to the Tories' links with the press.

Mr Mellor and Mr Patten Continued on page 16, col 4

Peter Riddell, Diary, page 12

Abductor linked to food poison threats

By CRAIG SETON

POLICE are investigating whether the kidnapper of Stephanie Slater could be a failed "consumer terrorist" who tried to extort money by threatening to contaminate supermarket food.

Tom Cook, head of a joint police investigation into the abduction of Miss Slater and the murder last year of Julie Dart, said yesterday that possible links were being examined with seven or eight failed attempts at extortion involving demands for up to £200,000 over the past two years.

Mr Cook, assistant chief constable of West Yorkshire, whose force is working with West Midlands police on the kidnapping, also confirmed that the enquiry was studying other possible links with an attempt to blackmail British Rail last year. A demand was delivered to BR's London headquarters threatening to sabotage a passenger train unless money was paid. Scotland Yard said yesterday that the regional crime squad had launched Operation Orient when the blackmail demand was received, but gave no further details.

Possible links with other attempts to extort money have widened the hunt for Miss Slater's kidnapper, who escaped with £175,000 last Wednesday night before freeing her after she had been held for eight days. Detectives are almost certain that he is the man who abducted Miss Dart, aged 18, from a street in Leeds last July. She was found strangled 10 days later.

Miss Dart's murderer demanded a ransom of £140,000 and threatened to take more hostages. In one of many letters sent to West Yorkshire police, he also made a threat to firebomb a supermarket in Coventry.

Mr Cook said yesterday that although Miss Slater had given police a description of the man, they had not yet issued a photo or artist's impression because it was vital that it should be highly accurate. Miss Slater was blindfolded in captivity.

"We would hope to be finished and have a photo of this available by the middle of this week," Mr Cook said.

Threat to train, page 3

TODAY IN THE TIMES

GETTING AWAY



Europe, Asia, America... wherever in the world you want to go, a friend can fly free and stay free with the six Times privilege tokens being published each day this week. Collect the second one today. Life & Times section, page 6

FERAL CAR



Low-slung, lithe, wild — and that's just the metalwork. Stephen Bayley compares the design of the new Jaguar XJ220 with its renowned predecessors. Life & Times section, page 1

RIFF KING



Sober-suited, understated, Eric Clapton took the stage for the first night of this season's solo appearances. Life & Times section, page 2

Avalanches claim 300

Up to 300 people were feared dead last night after a series of avalanches in Turkey's three eastern provinces at the weekend. Rescuers found 142 bodies, mostly from a single village which disappeared under drifts, and another 150 people were missing last night. Page 16

Habash plea

The French government was asked yesterday to apologise for detaining George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The front said that his detention and questioning during a visit for medical treatment was "a mark of disgrace". Page 10

Terror tax

The Inland Revenue is to allow companies in Northern Ireland to claim protection money paid to terrorists as a tax-deductible expense. David Trimble, Ulster Unionist MP, plans to question Peter Brooke, Northern Ireland secretary, about it. Page 2

Lloyds guilty

Lloyds Bank has admitted being guilty of "unprofessional behaviour" after telling staff at Forwell Group, the office design and fitting, that the company was bankrupt while it was still trying to draw up a rescue plan. Page 17

New York £89

A travel company is offering scheduled air tickets from London to New York cheaper than those offered ten years ago on Sir Freddie Laker's collapsed Skytrain venture. The £89 tickets cost £2 more than a first class single rail fare from Edinburgh to London. Page 16

Springback

South Africa is planning a tour of four rugby union games in England in the autumn. Page 28

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Births, marriages, deaths, letters, obituaries, sport, weather. Page 20

LIFE & TIMES

Arts, Concise crossword, Law Report, Science, TV & radio. Page 12

Peacemaker Yeltsin returns to grapple with a civil war

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin flew home last night from his triumphant debut at the United Nations and his first summit meeting with President Bush to face a war between two of Russia's commonwealth partners and an atmosphere of confrontation in Moscow.

Mr Bush and the Russian president agreed to hold two summits this year; the first is likely to be held before June in Washington, and the second will be in Moscow.

The most striking outcome of the two men's talks was their affirmation of a new era of partnership and it was clear that Washington no longer perceives Mr Yeltsin as rough and ready, or even a drunk and a demagogue.

Richard Gephardt, the Democrat leader of the House of Representatives, said he was "very impressed" by the Russian leader.

The joint declaration by Mr Bush and Mr Yeltsin pledged that Russia and America would remove all remnants of Cold War hostility. "From now on we do not consider ourselves to be potential enemies. That is the historic value of this meeting," Mr Yeltsin said. The two leaders also said that they would work to support democracy, resolve regional conflicts, counter terrorism and prevent nuclear proliferation.

As the Russian president returned to Moscow, leaders of the embattled ethnic Arme-

nian community in Nagorno-Karabakh, a mountainous enclave of Azerbaijan, welcomed his proposal that United Nations forces should be sent to the region. Mr Yeltsin set forward the plan after his meeting at the United Nations on Thursday. "While this step would not of itself be a solution to the Karabakh problem," a senior official said, "it would at least help to stop pointless bloodshed."

The Russian authorities seem powerless to stop the fierce fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces in the disputed enclave. In the latest fighting, rockets rained Continued on page 16, col 8

Era of trust, page 10

Signing up for a fortune, with nibs of gold

By MARTIN WALLER

WHEN, or perhaps if, the ink has dried on a contract consigning Parker Pen to new owners, many of the company's executives will find themselves enjoying a new-found status as millionaires and celebrating the spectacular vindication of their faith in the product and that Eighties phenomenon, the management buyout.

Parker went on the market in late 1985, when its owner, the American staff agency Manpower, relying on mass sales, despaired of bringing it back into profit. As a group, the company was losing \$20 million a year. But in Europe, where the up-market nature of the product was emphasised, the operation was in profit to the tune of £10 million a year, and a group of 30 executives decided to risk a personal

investment in their expertise. It cost them just £300,000 — or £10,000 per head. In a finale to one of the most extraordinary management success stories of the past decade, a London merchant bank will this week ask potential buyers from around the world for bids in the region of £300 million for Parker. A quarter of this will go to the managers who gambled all.

The biggest beneficiary will be Jacques Margry, aged 64, the chief executive, who has 5 per cent of the shares and has worked for Parker for 42 years. His shares will be worth £15 million if the target price is reached. Of the top 30 managers, seven or eight own 15 per cent of the company. Another 70 employees will benefit from share options, some granted at a tenth of the current value. Mr Margry said last night: "This great success has been, in financial

terms, as much as a surprise to us as to anybody else. The first motivation was to save jobs and see if we could do worldwide what we were doing in Europe."

Backed by a British venture capital fund, Schroder Ventures, the European management scraped together the necessary money to take a quarter of the company. Schroder Wagg, a related merchant bank, is now looking for a buyer to turn that investment into a multi-million pound windfall.

But of course that ink still has to dry. Parker has twice before been left at the altar. A flotation was scuppered by the 1987 market crash, and a deal three years ago to sell the company for £180 million to Pentland Industries, a British group that had made a fortune with a stake in the Reebok sports shoe business, fell through.



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Brooke challenged over tax relief on extortion payments

By DAVID YOUNG

PETER Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, is to be asked why the Inland Revenue is to allow companies in the province to claim protection money paid to IRA and Loyalist paramilitary groups as a legitimate tax-deductible business expense.

David Trimble, Ulster Unionist MP, will raise the matter with Mr Brooke. He said: "It is outrageous that the taxpayer is now effectively subsidising terrorism. How can we on one hand ask businesses to stand firm against terrorism and then on the other hand allow protection money to be tax deductible?"

Mr Trimble, member for Upper Bann, added: "It would be impossible to quantify how much money is being paid out in Northern Ireland in extortion payments, but it is likely to run into millions of

pounds." In an internal memo to his Northern Ireland controller, the Inland Revenue says: "Expenditure can still be wholly and exclusively for the purposes of a trade even though the trader is acting illegally in incurring the expenditure."

Though payments to prevent attacks on shops, offices and factories could be classed as a legitimate business expense, money paid to protect individuals from harm does not count, the Inland Revenue has said. The memo concedes that there is no way of checking if money claimed has actually been paid.

Inland Revenue sources in Northern Ireland said they had not seen any accounts in which a business had put in a claim saying outright that protection money was being paid. Some have been classifying protection money as pay-

ment for security, and claims to the taxman for security machinery or staff have been passed as acceptable as a business expense.

The Inland Revenue said that it would be up to each company to argue its case with their tax inspector. At least 12 companies are understood to have answered an appeal from Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, to tell his office if they are paying protection money.

Seamus Mallon, the deputy leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party and MP for Newry and Armagh, has also called for a detailed investigation.

After co-ordinated IRA bomb attacks on three big Belfast hotels on Saturday night, the chairman of the SDLP, Alban Maginness, said that the IRA was embarked on a scorched-earth policy.

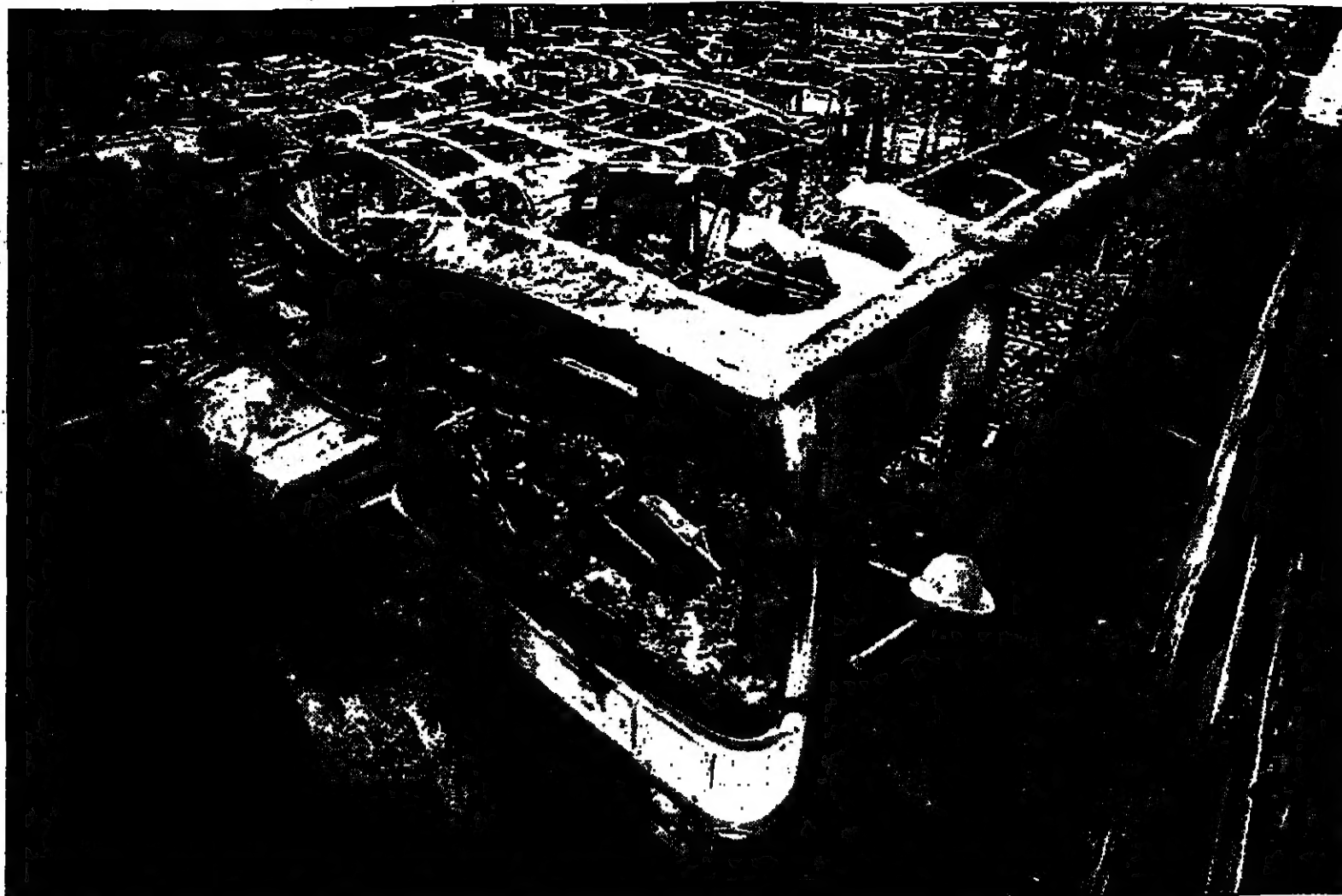
"It is a whole strategy aimed at creating as much destruction and economic deprivation as possible," Mr Maginness said. "More people are out of work in a campaign designed to undermine the work of those rebuilding the city."

The future of the 90 employees of the Lansdowne Court Hotel was unclear yesterday as police combed through the wreckage of a fierce fire started by three hold-all bombs. The lounge and restaurant were crowded when a number of masked men who had held up security staff on the gate at gunpoint entered to plant the devices and shouted warnings before escaping.

Minutes before the North Belfast attack, a Hyundai car exploded in the car park of the Bessborough Hotel on the south side of the city, where a wedding reception with nearly 200 guests was taking place. Although there was no warning, there were no casualties, and damage was relatively light.

At about the same time, another car bomb exploded at the Drumkeen Hotel in East Belfast, again causing only slight damage and no injuries. Hundreds of guests were also evacuated from the Europa Hotel in the centre of Belfast after a warning, but nothing was found.

An RUC spokesman said: "Such gangsterism cannot be tolerated in a civilised society."



Burnt out: some of the 18 vehicles destroyed as fire wrecked a bus depot, causing damage estimated at £2 million. Police are treating the fire as suspicious. The fire at the Midland Red depot in Stafford began at about 1am yesterday

Kinnock and the Kremlin

Why Labour shouted 'foul'

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A SHARP-EARED radio listener alerted the Labour high command to the *Sunday Times* story about the Neil Kinnock files in the Kremlin.

He heard Ivan Fallon, deputy editor of *The Sunday Times*, hinting, on an LBC current affairs programme, at a difficult weekend ahead for the Labour leader and telephoned Mr Kinnock's private office on Friday. The tip-off was passed to David Hill, Labour's communications

chief, who by then was receiving independent corroboration that one of the country's most influential newspapers was about to divert the pre-election political agenda on to "dangerous territory" for Labour.

Other papers began calling Labour's press office and the party's suspicions were further aroused by an invitation to Gerald Kaufman, the shadow foreign secretary, to join Andrew Neil, editor of

The Sunday Times on his Sunday morning radio chat show. Another clue came from a leaked internal memorandum from Nick Sheldon, the paper's circulation manager, which alerted his staff to a forthcoming controversial story about a political leader.

Jack Cunningham, Labour's campaigns chief, and Mr Kinnock were out of town on Friday. But Mr Hill, aged 43, had little doubt about his next move. On Tuesday, Roy

Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, writing in *The Times*, had criticised the *Daily Mail* in particular and the Tory tabloids in general. Ironically, he had exonerated *The Sunday Times*, pointing to its exhortation of Norman Lamont's chancellorship and praising its capacity for balanced argument and occasional heresy. He denounced the "corrupt compact" that existed between Conservative Central Office and its media friends and said that from now on he would confront political chicanery head on and expose the guilty scribes.

"Tory editors and owners are going to hear the sound of me spitting out the word," he wrote. Bolstered by such encouragement, Mr Hill might have gone public immediately. But he did not act alone. He phoned Dr Cunningham at his home near Newcastle upon Tyne, while Mr Kinnock's London office kept in touch with their leader.

At 4pm Mr Hill telephoned Mr Neil to ask about the nature of the story and came away with the impression that the editor was being "dis-ingenuous". Mr Neil regarded the material unearthed in the Kremlin's files as fascinating stuff but denied that it was a cause for concern for Mr Kinnock. Newspaper placards trumpeting "Kinnock - the Kremlin connection" told a different story in Labour eyes.

At 5pm on Friday, the die was cast. Mr Hill spoke to Mr Kinnock and got his blessing for a pre-emptive strike. He also spoke to Mr Hattersley. There was "absolute unanimity" that it was time to take the Tory press head on, Mr Hill said yesterday.

An hour later, selected political correspondents were given Mr Hill's denunciation of the planned "smear campaign". By evening, reporters from *The Times*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Guardian*, *The Independent*, *Daily Mirror* and *Financial Times* began breaking the story. Labour was not so much spitting into the wind as turning a torrent on the elements.

It has become a commonplace to suggest that the election will be the dirtiest in living memory. Labour has today begun hearing appeals by seven men sentenced at the Central Criminal Court in 1990 for obscenity and violence against each other and themselves.

Glasgow goes

Mellor skirts VAT question

A refusal by David Mellor, chief secretary to the Treasury, to rule out any widening in the scope of value-added tax was seized on by Labour yesterday to revive its charge that the government has a hidden agenda for indirect taxation (Nicholas Wood writes).

The Opposition's "Vatman" poster campaign, insisting that ministers secretly intend to push up VAT to 22 per cent, has been overshadowed by John Major's unequivocal pledge in the Commons that the rate will not be raised from its present 17½ per cent over the lifetime of the next Parliament. However, Mr Mellor's refusal to give an equivalent pledge on the possibility of extending VAT to zero-rated items, such as children's clothing and food, provoked a renewed attack.

Questioned by David Frost on TV-am, Mr Mellor fell back on the standard Treasury line that the government had "no plans" to widen the VAT base. "Chancellors have always been reluctant to totally rule out things because nobody knows what is round the corner," he said.

The Labour party said: "Mr Mellor has made a most extraordinary admission. By using the phrase 'no plans' he is making it clear that the government is now seriously thinking about widening the scope of VAT."

Letters, page 13

EC aid dispute

Bruce Millan, the Brussels commissioner blocking £900 million of EC aid for Britain's poorest regions, was accused yesterday of double standards by Edward McMillan-Scott, MEP for York. The Tory, who will see John Major today, said he had discovered that Italy was receiving £5 billion in EC assistance while applying the same rules on distribution as those that had held up Britain's share.

Obscenity plea

The Court of Appeal will be asked this week to decide whether consenting participants in sado-masochism can properly be brought before the courts. Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, with Mr Justice Rose and Mr Justice Potts, will today begin hearing appeals by seven men sentenced at the Central Criminal Court in 1990 for obscenity and violence against each other and themselves.

Glasgow goes

The *Glasgow Herald*, so named in 1805 after foundation in 1783 as the *Glasgow Advertiser*, drops the name of its home city from its title today. Arnold Kemp, editor of *The Herald*, which sold on average 120,468 copies a day last year, said: "The change reflects our substantial growth in circulation and our intention to consolidate *The Herald's* position as Scotland's leading newspaper."

CORRECTION

On the front page of *Weekend Times* on January 25, the spelling and location of Bushy Park, the royal park next to Hampton Court in southwest London, was inadvertently given as Bushey Park, Hertfordshire.

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Reynolds tipped for Haughey job

By JAMIE DETTMER

A FORMER manager of a string of dance halls in Ireland has emerged as the favourite to step into Charles Haughey's shoes as leader of the governing Fianna Fáil party and Irish prime minister.

Albert Reynolds, one of Mr Haughey's sternest critics, is poised for victory when Fianna Fáil deputies vote for a new leader on Thursday after Bertie Ahern, the Irish finance minister, indicated yesterday that he would not enter the contest.

Mr Ahern, who was Mr Haughey's preferred choice for the leadership, made his decision after a long meeting with Mr Reynolds on Saturday night. The two men are believed to have drawn up a pact detailing what cabinet job Mr Ahern would get. Mr Reynolds is said to have agreed to a drive against unemployment, which stands in the republic at 20 per cent.

Mr Haughey will resign immediately before Thursday's leadership ballot. He announced his intention last week after a public dispute over allegations about his part in a ten-year-old tele-

phone tapping scandal. Mr Reynolds, a pet-food millionaire, will still face a challenge in the leadership ballot from Mary O'Rourke, the health minister, but few commentators believe she has enough deputies behind her to secure victory. The Reynolds camp yesterday claimed it had the support of 40 out of 77 deputies.

Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, said yesterday on ITV's *Walden* programme that he was confident that peace talks in Ulster would resume after the general election.



Reynolds: struck deal with nearest rival

Agency aims to fill empty homes

By RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

AN AGENCY to bring at least 20,000 empty properties into use for the homeless over the next two years will be launched today by Sir George Young, the housing minister. The Empty Homes Agency will act as a broker, bringing the owners of some of England's 760,000 empty houses and flats into contact with housing associations and other agencies.

"There is no public or private body whose job is to introduce owners of property to users of property," Antony Fletcher, an environment department consultant on empty homes and a founder of the agency, said. "Empty homes are an affront to the homeless and those in need of a good home. These are wasted assets and opportunities for people to live in decent conditions."

The agency was aimed at corporate property owners, rather than individuals, he said. It would advise owners and users, and produce legal agreements. "We are thinking particularly of retail chains, government departments or developers who have large stocks of property who do not know how they can be

used. Keeping homes empty is bad business and it is not cheap."

Changes in the 1988 Housing Act, which had ended protected tenancies and set up assured shorthold tenancies, meant owners felt happy to let, as they knew that they could remove tenants if need be, Mr Fletcher said. "Renting used to have a bad image, but that has changed."

He cited the City Road Mission in London as an example of what could be achieved. Two years ago, the property, owned by a private developer, was almost derelict. Only five of its 100 rooms were occupied. Four months later, 45 flats were occupied after a partnership deal was set up with St Mungo's Housing Association. The project has provided shelter to 200 people.

The new agency is backed by Dr George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury, Jim Coulter, director of the National Federation of Housing Associations, and Mark Southern, director of Crisis. It has funding from charitable organisations including the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Moscow's radical police chief visits the Yard

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

THE head of the Moscow police is to visit Scotland Yard this week to find out whether a policeman's lot is happier in London than in the Russian capital.

Arkadi Murashev, aged 33, was named head of the Moscow police department last September. His previous dealings with the forces of law and order had largely been confined to tense negotiations ahead of anti-Communist street demonstrations that he was organising. His appointment was the most spectac-

ular among a flurry of promotions of liberals and radicals to establishment posts which took place after last August's failed coup.

A physicist with a schoolboy grin, Mr Murashev's first action on arrival at the barracks from which he commands the 120,000-strong Moscow force was to consult his own file. He was not displeased to find himself described as a "typical neo-Bolshevik... with exceptional organisational abilities".

In office, the former co-ordinator of the inter-regional parliamentary group headed by Boris Yeltsin and Andrei Sakharov has proved to a

policeman's policeman. He has sought to mitigate the resentment of professional police officers by fighting hard for extra resources and higher salaries on behalf of a force whose pay and conditions are poor by international standards.

Mr Murashev will be looking for help with training and technology when he meets his counterparts in the Metropolitan Police after a weekend in Cambridge with his old friend, the dissident Vladimir Bukovsky.

The Russian proposes to tell his opposite numbers that all western countries, including Britain, have an

interest in Moscow becoming a place which it is safe to visit and do business in. He also wants to learn about Britain's experience in race relations - and its relevance to a city where racial tension is increasing. One of the first crises he had to defuse in Moscow was a strike by taxi drivers demanding that all trans-Caucasians be expelled.

Mr Murashev's wife Olga, founder of a new charity which looks after the widows of policemen killed in action, hopes to visit the 122-year-old Metropolitan Police widows and orphans fund at its offices in Putney.

Political dogfight, page one

Police link
with thr

Police
profile of

Art-buyer

The abduction of Stephanie Slater

Police link kidnapper with threat to BR

BY CRAIG SETON AND STEWART TENDLER

POLICE confirmed yesterday that the man who kidnapped Stephanie Slater and is suspected of murdering Julie Dart last year is also being sought for trying to blackmail British Rail by threatening to derail a passenger train.

A demand for £150,000, with a threat to sabotage an InterCity train somewhere in the North, was delivered to British Rail headquarters in London last autumn, Scotland Yard confirmed.

The kidnapper delivered part of his instructions for a payment from British Rail by attaching his message to a large piece of stone left dangling over a railway bridge in the Midlands.

Scotland Yard's section of the regional crime squad net-

work has been leading the hunt for the kidnapper in an operation codenamed Orient, lead by Det Chief Supt Pat Fleming. Officers throughout the country have been involved in the hunt.

Yesterday, police disclosed that the man may also have been involved in seven or eight failed attempts at extortion involving threats to contaminate food in supermarkets and food stores.

Scotland Yard sources said the threat to attack a specific line had been taken very seriously. The kidnapper had included a diagram of how he could carry out his threat. He wanted two policemen to carry the cash in used bank notes and stand on a platform at Crewe near a call box. The

time for the handover was given in the personal column of a national newspaper. The policemen went to the platform. The telephone rang, but the caller hung up. A second attempt at a rendezvous failed. The calls are said to have been traced to the Sheffield area.

Yesterday, there was confirmation in police ranks that details of the blackmail attempt had been leaked. There may now be friction between, and within, forces over how or why it was disclosed.

Tom Cook, assistant chief constable of West Yorkshire, who is leading the joint investigations with West Midlands police into the abduction of the estate agent Stephanie Slater from Birmingham and the kidnapping and murder of Julie Dart, aged 18, last year, said yesterday: "There are possible links between our enquiries and the demand delivered to British Rail."

Police believe that there may be links that demand and the Dart case because of similarities in the way that demands were couched and instructions attached. There is suspicion that the kidnapper may have tried to make at least one other large demand on a major company. The possibility that the man has made serious threats before in an attempt to extort money has increased fears that he may strike again.

Miss Slater, aged 25, was kidnapped on January 22 when she kept an appointment with a middle-aged man calling himself "Bob Southwell" at a house for sale at Great Barr, Birmingham.

She was released on Thursday after being held for eight days by a man who made threats against her life and who escaped with a £175,000 ransom, in spite of a West Midlands police-led operation involving 1,000 officers from six forces. He collected the ransom on Wednesday night from a lonely, fogbound spot near Barnsley, West Yorkshire, after Kevin Watts, Miss Slater's manager, left it on a disused railway bridge.

West Midlands police have refused to confirm that the money was placed on a tray, which the abductor pulled from the bridge and into a cutting 50ft below using a length of fishline or rope. Police are almost certain Miss Slater's kidnapper is the man who abducted Miss Dart, aged 18, from Leeds last year. Her body was found near Grantham, Lincolnshire. A ransom demand for £140,000 had been made.

Poison threat, page 1

How police create profile of killer

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

POLICE searching for the kidnapper of Stephanie Slater, the estate agent, and the killer of Julie Dart, the teenager, are using the techniques of psychological profiling to build up a picture of the man believed to be responsible for both crimes.

The profile they have drawn up portrays a man who enjoys engaging the police in a battle of wits in which the victim is merely a device for attracting attention. The fact that Miss Slater escaped with her life tends to confirm that murder is not the man's main motivation.

The two crimes may be linked to earlier failed attempts at extortion. Tom Cook, assistant chief constable of West Yorkshire, said yesterday. Mr Cook, who is heading a joint enquiry into the murder and kidnap, said most of the earlier incidents were blackmail attempts against large firms.

The technique of psychological profiling tries to identify common features in the behaviour of known offenders and tie them to evidence from the crime being investigated. In the Dart case, the profile suggests that the killer lives alone and is technically skilled.

The profiling technique has been pioneered by the FBI's behavioural science unit and by Professor David Canter, a psychologist at Surrey University. The FBI team began its investigations by interviewing some of America's most notorious killers, includ-

ing the mass killer Charles Manson. The FBI's researches have found that sexual sadists are also people who like to drive a lot, while a single neat feature like a carefully-cleaned bath in the middle of a murder scene indicates that the criminal has recently been released from a mental hospital.

Professor Canter said yesterday that knowledge of details, usually not made public, can help to identify the type of



Cook: linking crimes to earlier blackmail cases person who had committed a crime. If a body were methodically concealed, it indicated that the killer was a semi-skilled man. Violence far in excess of what was required could indicate a drug user or a heavy drinker. The length of time a criminal spent with his victim could also provide clues. For instance, a married man would need to go home regularly so as not to make his wife suspicious.

£85m fall in training 'not a cut'

BY LOUISE HIDALGO

THE employment department yesterday accused Labour of misinterpreting a leaked report which, the Opposition claims, shows a cut of £85 million in government spending on training the long-term unemployed.

The department said the figure, taken from a confidential policy document, was a projection for how much training and enterprise councils (Tecs) would have under-spent for the year on their budget for employment training, which helps adults out of work for six months. "It does not represent a cut in government spending," a spokesman said.

Labour had claimed that the report showed training schemes for adults and school-leavers were "in a state of crisis".

Eleven killed in fog and ice accidents

BY LOUISE HIDALGO

FOG and ice caused accidents in which at least 11 people died and scores were injured over the weekend.

Five firefighters were treated for hypothermia last night after plunging into a lake in Sidcup, Kent, to rescue people feared trapped in a sunken car. The car was found to be empty.

Police criticised drivers for ignoring warnings and travelling too fast. More than 200 vehicles were involved in separate incidents on a half-mile stretch of the A1 in South Yorkshire as drivers hit dense pockets of fog. In the worst of the pile-ups, near Doncaster, three people died and 23 were injured.

Freezing fog caused delays and diversions at airports. Luton airport was closed yesterday morning and passengers were being transferred to

Forecast, page 16



Net loss: David Rees, whose family have been fishing from coracles on the river Towy since 1620

Coracle men sunk by licence increase

BY TIM JONES

THE last coracle fishermen in Britain say that greed is forcing them out of business.

For decades, a small band of men in southwest Wales have manoeuvred their unlikely cockleshell craft on the Towy and Teify rivers in Dyfed, to harvest the salmon and sea trout which head upstream to spawn.

Hearing dark rumours that they are being priced out to make way for rich English anglers, the coracle men are to petition David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, to ask him to prevent planned increases in their licence fees. Their action follows a National Rivers Authority decision to increase the licence fee on the Towy from £399 to £420 on March 1, St David's day. Five years ago, it was £45.

Only 25 men are now licensed to fish from coracles, operating in pairs to suspend a net across the river. The occupation requires a great deal of skill although the lath and calico baskets are far more resilient than they look.

David Rees, one of the petitioners, said: "Members of my family have been on the river at least since 1620 and it seems we are now being driven out by the NRA."

The NRA said it was nonsense to suggest that there was any plot to price the coracle men off the river.

Fine art world combines to stop thefts

BY SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, SALEROOM CORRESPONDENT

THE proliferation of international art thefts soon could be checked after an initiative by members of the British fine art world.

The Council for the Prevention of Art Theft (Copat) will be headed by Sir Thomas Ingilby, of Ripley Castle, North Yorkshire, who has already set up the highly effective "Stately Homes Hotline" whereby owners contact each other when burglars have struck. Members will include Philip Saunders, the managing director of Trace, the privately run art theft circular on

which the police and insurance industry increasingly depend, and Mark Dalrymple, a fine art loss adjuster. Det Chief Supt Peter Gwynn, of the City of London police, will represent the police.

Works of art worth an estimated £2 billion are stolen in this country annually, and hardly any are retrieved, largely because of the lack of co-ordinated intelligence between police forces. Only nine out of 51 forces have specialist squads, and there is no central computerised list of stolen objects for the police.

The rest of Europe does not do much better. France has 60 specialist officers, but The Netherlands has one and Spain none, and different countries have different laws on right of title. In Britain, title tends to stay with the original owner. In Switzerland, it can pass if the item is sold at auction, and in Japan if the new owner holds on to the item for five years.

After a year in which antique shops throughout the country have been raided and half a dozen removal vans stolen, members of Copat

have started to campaign for the clarification and harmonisation of international laws on the sale and ownership of stolen items. They are also lobbying to eliminate the system whereby under English law title for goods can pass if they are sold in certain street markets, and to review the present system whereby rewards are paid to informants after an art robbery.

The first International Yearbook of Stolen Art has been published privately in France. The 1,100-page book

is packed with pictures and descriptions of stolen items from all over the world. Notable examples include the Tate Gallery's portrait of Francis Bacon by Lucien Freud. The project is the initiative of Martin Monestier, a French author whose titles include *Collective Suicide through History* and *The Effects of Music on Plants*. He says he is fascinated by the art works that have disappeared from their rightful homes. The book is being distributed in this country by Trace Publications of Plymouth, at £65.

Lords may revolt over education

BY JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

FEARS that two-year degrees might be imposed on British universities are expected to prompt a new revolt in the House of Lords tonight against the government's higher education reforms.

Ministers have re-drafted amendments to the Further and Higher Education Bill to avoid charges of endangering academic freedom by giving themselves too much power over universities.

Lord Belstead, the pay master general, had to agree to reconsider the original proposals to avoid a defeat at the report stage. New clauses to be introduced at tonight's third reading will satisfy vice-chancellors' demands that intervention should be restricted to cases of financial mismanagement. However, the government is gambling that the Lords will leave intact the proposed powers over course lengths.

The bill is already in danger of running out of time in the event of an April election, delaying the polytechnics' acquisition of university status and endangering the separation of further education colleges from local authorities.

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Art-buyer is stung by a fake fake

BY TONY DAWE

A pawnbroker has become the victim of the ultimate art world irony. He bought a painting by Britain's best-known forger only to find that it is, itself, a fake.

The London pawnbroker, whose identity has not been disclosed, handed over £1,500 for a landscape bearing the signature "Tom Keating" believing he had got a bargain because acknowledged fakes by Keating and some of his original paintings have sold for several thousand pounds.

The painting, of a typical river scene in Dedham Vale, Essex, where Keating lived until his death eight years ago, carried a certificate say-

ing it had fetched £17,000 at a sale of Keating's work. Phillips the auctioneers has discovered that the painting was not included in that sale. Michael Wright, their Keating expert, also decided the painting was not genuine. "It just doesn't look competent enough," he said.

The pawnbroker sought a second opinion from John Brandler, a Keating specialist and gallery owner at Brentwood, Essex. He said: "It is atrocious, and the signature is not even accurate."

This first documented example of a fake Keating will frighten the art world, which has foreseen the problem of judging the authenticity of

work by an artist who spent most of his career forging other people's paintings. "This is likely to turn into a very successful line of business," Brian Sewell, the art critic, said. "Some modern painters think that if they take an Old Master and do it badly enough, they can pass it off as a Keating. But his fakes were good enough to convince people in many leading museums."

Keating's paintings are not expected to have a "history" because of his unorthodox career. So the arrival of unknown work by him would create less suspicion than the arrival of an unrecorded Old Master. Keating is also at

risk of being copied because he used modern canvases and failed to sign several of his own paintings as well, of course, as his fakes.

He was unmasked by *The Times* in 1976 as the painter of works supposedly by Samuel Palmer which had fetched record prices in London's Bond Street galleries. He was charged with fraud but the trial was abandoned because of his poor health. He later became a television personality, demonstrating how to fake the Old Masters.

The record price for his work at auction is £27,500 and that sort of money has encouraged others.

Take a look at this building. Have you ever seen anything quite like it?

Who in their right minds would install such ungainly looking posts everywhere, (even across doorways), place milk bottle brackets halfway up the wall and paint a flight of stairs in such a peculiar manner?

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Before starting work on Swail House, Epsom, the world's first block of



By the look of these flats, the builder must have been blind.

self contained flats for blind people, we helped the contractor understand the problems blind people have getting around a conventional building.

So on every wall there is a guide rail, to help blind and visually impaired people move around more freely.

Milk bottle holders halfway up the wall, ensure that blind people aren't driven up the wall by constantly stumbling over bottles.

Indeed all the corridors are kept free of furniture and clutter to prevent them becoming obstacle courses.

Whilst the upright poles you can see on the outside of the building are erected so the blind residents can count them to locate their own front doors. Everywhere you look, the needs of blind people have been carefully considered, with braille fire precautions provided for their safety, for instance.

The same is true of the stairs, with each step painted with a line of contrasting colour, to assist those people with residual vision.

Swail House enables them to carry on day to day living with the minimum of assistance and therefore, lead a far more independent life.

If only the same could be said of places meant for the general public,



which often seem to display a total lack of consideration towards blind people.

Here, at Action for Blind People, we believe these attitudes are long overdue for change.

To improve matters, we have assisted architects and planners, by getting involved with the planning of public buildings, like shopping centres and industrial complexes, long before they reached the drawing board.

Introducing simple provisions such as textured paving, boldly lettered signs and many of the safety features predominant in Swail House, caused them no great hardship.

However, they can save great hardship for all blind and partially sighted people, who, without such help,

find it extremely difficult to move around unhindered.

If there is any way in which you think we can assist you, or you have a blind friend or relative who needs any help or information, please call us on 071 732 8771 and ask for Tony Gillar.

Positive action is always our prime objective, as our name implies.

A name we attempt to live up to in the swiftest and most effective ways.

That can often mean confronting long held misconceptions of the abilities and capabilities of blind people.

Obviously, it isn't blindness which prevents them from getting around without assistance.

It's short-sightedness.

Blindness is the least of our problems



Action for Blind People

Spending curbs land thrifty Wigan with 20% poll tax rise

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

ATTEMPTS by the government to restrain local council spending are about to backfire by pushing up poll tax bills in some of the poorest parts of England.

While non-payment is expected to add an average of 8 per cent to the government's target of £257 a head for the year starting in April, spending cuts are likely to increase bills by between 10 and 35 per cent. Local authorities in the North-West and Yorkshire will be worst affected by the government's refusal to increase so-called standard spending assessments for some councils in line with inflation.

Before the introduction of the poll tax, councils were able to compensate for shortfalls in grant by comparatively modest rises in domestic and business rates which accounted for roughly half their income. Today councils are almost wholly reliant on the government which controls 85 per cent of their income through grants and centrally determined business rates.

Increasing the poll tax, which accounts for only 15 per cent of council income, to cover a shortfall leads to sharper rises in bills than under the rates.

Barnsley, Doncaster, Rochdale, Rotherham, Sheffield, St Helens, Wakefield and Wigan have said that the poll tax will have to rise by more than 10 per cent to compensate for lower than expected rises in government grant. Rochdale is predicting a 35 per cent rise from £249 to £335 and Sheffield 30 per cent. Wigan is likely to have to

put its £268 poll tax up by 20 per cent to about £320, in spite of poll tax capping.

Wigan has become a byword for the inadequacy of the grant system. Praised by ministers and the Audit Commission for its efficiency, the borough council has had to make £37 million worth of cuts in the past two years. It has been forced to shed 1,250 staff from a workforce already smaller than the national average and spends less on services than many Conservative councils. It also has one of the best records of poll tax collection.

This year the council, run by Labour moderates, is spending £899 per person on local services compared to £1,448 in neighbouring Labour-controlled Manchester. Last year it was placed twelfth out of 104 education authorities in a league table of GCSE results in spite of spending £510 a head on its schools, compared to Manchester's £705.

For all its parsimony the council's spending assessment will increase in April by just 4.6 per cent, which is almost three percentage points below the national average. While Manchester will be allowed to spend £1,488 per adult, Wigan will be allowed just £898.

As a result the Labour group on the council meets tonight to decide on a package of cuts expected to total £15 million. More than 750 of the council's 14,000 staff are also likely to lose their jobs.

Wigan's difficulties stem from the fact that its social

problems are not the ones that the government measures when setting spending limits. Unemployment in the borough is 10.2 per cent, among the highest in any metropolitan area. The area has the second worst mortality rate of any urban area, largely due to the legacy of mining and the cotton industry. Work-related illness means that many men in their 50s are retired and in need of services such as home help.

The spending assessment formula takes no account of those factors. It gives weight to criteria such as the number of new Commonwealth immigrants and one-parent families. Wigan has few such people in either category.

Peter Smith, the council's leader, said: "We are suffering because the spending assessment formula takes no account of what we need to spend. We cannot change to fit the formula. It must be changed to fit us." Philip Grayling, the council treasurer, said: "The problem is not high spending. It is an implausibly low standard spending assessment."

The environment department said: "The government is in a better position to look at the national position in terms of how much the country can afford and how it should be distributed."



Dented pride: the Jaguar XJ220 after its painful but necessary trip into a brick wall

Technical curiosity vindicates the cat

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

THIS is what happens when you smash the world's most expensive production car into a brick wall at 30mph. This picture should reassure buyers who have paid a £50,000 deposit for the £340,000 Jaguar XJ220 that they will own a car with the endurance and toughness of a fully-fledged racing car.

It was taken at the Motor Industry Research Association, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, where all cars on sale in Britain have to undergo the simple, but revealing,

test. Richard Owen, the project's chief engineer, used the racing experience of the company's world championship-winning JaguarSport team to design a car capable of withstanding powerful impacts. For some manufacturers, the test has proved difficult. One car maker is reputed to have sacrificed 30 prototypes before passing.

Jaguar's prototypes are made of a complex honeycombed aluminium structure used widely in aircraft and racing cars. The

engineers' brief was to design the world's fastest car—already tested at 212.5mph—and bring the best aerodynamic and racing safety features to a road car.

What is learnt at JaguarSport's small factory at Bloxham, near Banbury, Oxfordshire, during the building of the XJ220 is being passed on to Jaguar's designers at its Coventry headquarters and could appear on more familiar models in years to come. In the XJ220 an aluminium and

steel cage surrounds driver and passenger. Required to withstand a pressure of 1.5 times its own 1.7 tonnes, engineers stopped testing when they passed ten tonnes.

In the test, the impact was absorbed by the front of the car. The windscreen remained intact, the doors opened and the headlights worked. Inside, the steering column had moved only half an inch.

Feral beast
L&T section, page 1

Bail hostel staff hold ballot after attacks

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

PROBATION officers are to be balloted on industrial action over staffing in hostels for offenders and people on bail.

Probation officers are demanding that at least two members of staff be on duty in the hostels after increases in assaults on staff, criminal damage, abusive behaviour and drunkenness. Incidents most often occur at night, when many hostels have only one member of staff on duty.

According to an analysis of 203 reported incidents at 12 hostels in the past two years, there were 25 assaults on staff with iron bars or pieces of wood. The survey, by the National Association of Probation Officers, found 48 assaults on residents in fights.

Officers are to be asked to support action in which they would refuse to refer offenders to hostels without two members of staff on duty at all times. There are more than 100 hostels providing 2,400 places in England and Wales, and a further 1,200 places are expected to be provided in a government drive for more punishment to be in the community, instead of jail. The association says that members will be more at risk as the service begins dealing with more serious offenders.

Last night, the Home Office said that while it was concerned about attacks on staff in bail hostels, most of them had seven supervisory staff, up from five three years ago.

Work on Globe to resume

By SIMON TAIT
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE NEXT phase of recreating Shakespeare's Globe playhouse near where it stood four centuries ago at Southwark, south London, is to begin this month, even though all the money needed for the work has not yet been raised.

Sam Wanamaker, the American actor and director who has worked on the venture for 12 years, has ordered that construction work begin after getting agreement from trustees of the appeal.

Sir David Orr, chairman of the Shakespeare's Globe Theatre Trust, said the recession had hit the Globe Appeal, causing a delay of 18 months since phase one foundations were completed.

The second phase will create a museum and a hall for an exhibition on the Shakespearean age. The theatre is to be built in the third phase. The appeal is for £8.5 million. A further £3.5 million is to be sought for the theatre.

Robinson to visit Ulster

MARY Robinson, the Irish president, is expected to pay her first official visit to Belfast tomorrow, although officials in Belfast and Dublin are saying nothing for security reasons.

The Northern Ireland office is also anxious that her visit should not be marred by demonstrations.

Although Mrs Robinson has expressed sympathy for the unionist viewpoint and is well regarded by many loyalists, supporters of Ian Paisley are certain to protest at any such visit as long as the republic maintains its constitutional claim to Ulster.

On her election Mrs Robinson said she was anxious to visit the north but has crossed the border only once since then, for the installation at Armagh of the Primate of All Ireland, Cardinal Cahal Daly. She sat with Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, for the rugby international in Dublin on January 18 and with the prime minister John Major at Twickenham on Saturday.

Adverts bring more to church

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

CONGREGATIONS in the Church of England's Oxford diocese grew by up to a quarter following an advertising campaign over Christmas.

One third of the clergy were asked to compare church attendance with the previous Christmas. They reported an average increase of 17.5 per cent, with up to 25 per cent more people in some churches.

One vicar wrote: "We will have to revise our Christmas programme if we are going to continue to get such large numbers. Overall attendance was enormous: 220 at the crib service and 145 at midnight, and we can only seat 125."

The diocese advertised on radio and in newspapers, and on posters and car stickers. The campaign was praised by George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury. The Rev Richard Thomas, one of the organisers, said: "There is no doubt that advertising helped get our message across, but this increase is part of a growing trend across all denominations and in all areas of the country."

The reversal in the decline of the church in Oxford began more than three years ago. Between 1988

and 1989, the number of active church members increased from 66,300 to 66,700. The number of adults and children baptised rose in the same period from 10,800 to 11,400, an increase of 5.5 per cent.

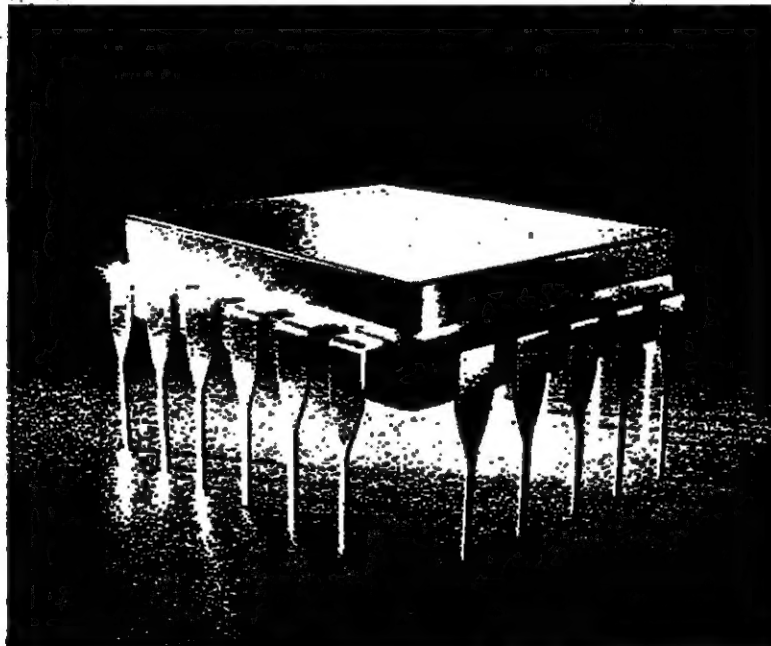
Latest attendance figures for the church as a whole also show that the decline has slowed. Between 1980 and 1989, attendance fell 7 per cent to 1,155,000. This compares with a fall of 20 per cent over the previous ten years.

No national figures exist for Christmas or the rest of last year, but dioceses throughout England are reporting renewed optimism among church members as the decade of evangelism enters its second year. York diocese spoke of a "general feeling of upturn through the year".

Canon John Finney, the Church of England's officer for the decade of evangelism, said: "There is a feeling that attendances have increased over the last few months and that churches are looking outwards more than they did previously. People are in better heart than they were two or three years ago."

Judas revisited, page 12

CHIP



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THE ENERGY TO SUCCEED

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Base winners

How new
to the
approach to
BIOKINETICS
SEARCH FOR
THE FUTURE

Victim wins battle for interest on injury cash

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A RAILWAY worker who had to wait 22 months for payment of compensation that had been awarded for injuries suffered in an attack has been granted £1,330 interest by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board for the delay.

The case, thought to be the first in which interest has been granted, is being treated by lawyers as setting a precedent which could give rise to similar applications for interest from the large numbers of cases awaiting determination by the board.

Gerald Glover, of Newport, Gwent, finally received his cheque for an award of £4,835 more than five years after the attack in which his shoulder was injured, and 22 months after his application was dealt with by the board.

The delay occurred because the cheque was posted to the wrong address. However, it took 14 letters to the board from his solicitor and trade union, the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers, as well as several telephone calls, before the mistake was rectified.

On receipt of the cheque, the solicitor, Adrian Boulter, of the law firm Pastinson and Brewer, lodged an application in the High Court for judicial review, claiming interest on the £4,835.

At the hearing last October, the court ruled that Mr Glover, who was injured by an unidentified attacker when working in shunters' accommodation in 1985, was not entitled to further compensation for the delay. The judge said he could find no legal error in the board's decision. Mr Boulter lodged an appeal

but just before the case was set down for hearing, said: "The Home Office stepped in and granted permission for the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board to pay an ex-gratia payment of the amount claimed for interest." This was paid on December 10, 1991.

"The board itself had no provision under its regulations to pay interest, so we believe the Home Office intervened to ensure a decision was not made by the court, thus establishing a precedent for future similar claims," he said. He added that Mr Glover was delighted with the outcome. "However, we also feel that the delay was disgusting and we hope others will be encouraged by this decision."

The board said it could not comment on individual cases. However, John Lawson, an official, added: "This should not be seen as setting any precedent. We hope that measures taken after this case will prevent anything similar occurring again."

Delays after an award is made by the board of the order suffered by Mr Glover are not common, with most applicants suffering delays in the processing of their applications. Most cases awaiting a first decision are now dealt within 12 months.

At the end of March 1991, there were 10,000 outstanding hearing cases, although this number was substantially reduced by the end of the year. Taking the whole process from start to finish, in 1990-1, 75 per cent of cases took more than a year to be resolved, against 80 per cent the year before.



Damp course: Captain Neil Rankin, commanding officer of HMS Ark Royal, with his ship which is to be refitted today after being in dry dock at Portsmouth naval base since early December.

The ship has undergone a docking and assisted maintenance period, known as Damp, which involves repainting, repairs and the replacement of equipment. Captain Rankin described it as the equivalent of

a car's 12,000-mile service, except that the Ark Royal covered about 250,000 miles between services. The cost is expected to be disclosed later. Captain Rankin, aged 51, took command of Ark Royal in Oc-

tober 1990. Prior to that he was deputy director of the defence ministry's directorate of naval warfare, with responsibility for naval aviation. He was the first Royal Navy pilot to qualify to fly Harrier jets.

Publicans catch Major's ear

BY JOHN SHAW

JOHN Major is to ask the trade department to study complaints by publicans in his Huntingdon constituency over new leases from brewers. Fourteen public houses in the prime minister's constituency have closed or are in receivership because the publicans could not afford the new rents. The local Licensed Victuallers' Association has discussed with him its concerns over leases and poor compensation for tenants replaced by brewers' managers.

St Albans publicans have also complained to their MP, Peter Lilley, who, as trade secretary, is responsible for the law blamed for the problem. Big brewers say that the law's requirements that they reduce their tied houses necessitates new leases.

□ The Portman Group, the drinks industry lobby group, is to call for more flexible licensing hours so as to combat disorderly behavior. A report commissioned by it says that much of the disorder happens as pubs and clubs close and people converge on the street.

Landscape 'blighted by masts'

Thousands of towers and masts planned for the telecommunications industry are threatening the rural landscape, the Council for the Protection of Rural England and the Association of District Councils say.

Government proposals to relax planning controls ignore widespread public concern, they say. The proposals put forward in a consultation paper last September include raising the height limits for which planning permission is not required from 15 to 20 metres, relaxing controls over antennae on buildings, and facilitating the construction of new buildings.

"Towers and masts are insidiously eroding the beauty of our rural landscape," the council says.

Airfield closed

Goodwood airfield, near Chichester, West Sussex, will be closed for five days as soldiers clear 15 pipe mines laid under the runway during the second world war.

Photo call

A personal advertisement in a local newspaper in Taunton, Somerset, reads: "Lady farmer, 15 acres, seeks friendship, male farmer with own tractor. Please send photograph of tractor."

Card sharp

Creighton Carvello, aged 47, of Cleveland, has claimed a record for memorising a shuffled pack of cards. He took two minutes and 17 seconds.

View from top

A firm of architects has put forward plans for a tourist observation platform, on 270 ft high Dixon's Chimney, the Carlisle landmark.

Bond winners

Premium Bond winners this week: £100,000, bond 3FP 540613, from Essex, £75 holding: £50,000, 8CZ 398045, Hampshire, (£9,990); £25,000, 7DS 044619, Northumberland (£4,000).

Britons in attempt on K2

BY RONALD FAIR

FOUR British mountaineers are to attempt a lightweight ascent of K2, the second highest peak in the world and one of the most challenging. They will rely on speed and experience without extra oxygen or fixed ropes.

One of the team is Ulric Jessop, aged 28, of Edinburgh, whose wife, Cathy, died from altitude sickness in the Himalayas on their honeymoon last October. With him on the K2 attempt will be Alan Hinkes, aged 36, and Mark Dixon, aged 27, both of Newcastle upon Tyne, and Andy Fanshawe aged 28, of Dufon, Cumbria, all seasoned Himalayan mountaineers. The aim is to attempt one of two possible routes up the north face of the mountain from China.

The expedition will be Mr Jessop's first return to the high mountains since the in-

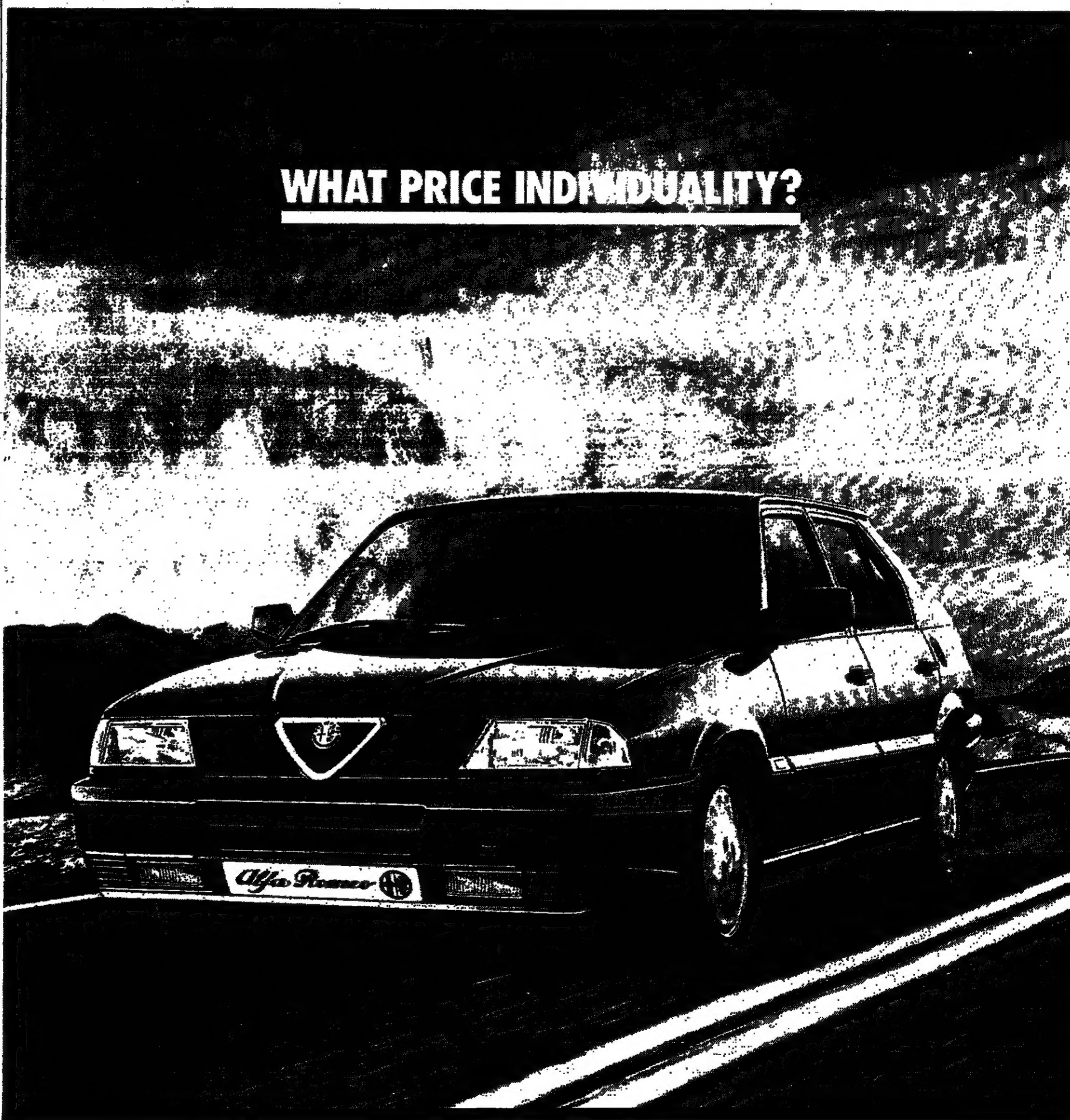


cident on Kusum Kanguru when his wife collapsed and died as the couple descended after she fell ill. She is buried on the mountainside.

"It was a terrible accident but you have to accept that there are risks that are part of the mountaineering," Cathy understood that," Mr Jessop, a computer programmer and highly experienced mountaineer, said.

The mountain has a grim reputation. Although marginally lower than Everest it is technically more difficult to climb and is subject to sudden and severe storms. Alan Rouse and Julie Tullis, the first British climbers to reach the summit, paid with their lives in 1986, when climbers died after being caught by storms high on the mountain.

The expedition sets out for China in June, completing the final section to base camp by camel carrying food supplies, climbing gear, computers and satellite communications equipment to provide a direct link between K2 and Britain. A supporting trek by Karakoram Experience will accompany the climbers whose attempt will be filmed for ITN.



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Bush rating slump lifts hopes of Democrats

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE steady erosion of public support for President Bush is continuing, according to the evidence of two new opinion polls, despite the fact that the Union speed last week that was supposed to stop the hemorrhage.

A CNN/Time magazine survey gave Mr Bush an approval rating of only 44 per cent, the lowest yet. Fifty-eight per cent of respondents described the president's economic recovery plan as an election-year gimmick, while 66 per cent said they did not think they would benefit from it. An unnamed Democrat would beat Mr Bush by 38 points to 35, although sup-

port for a named Democrat would probably be less.

The latest of a series of tracking polls in New Hampshire, where America's critical first primary is barely two weeks away, showed that President Bush's support in the state had dropped nine points in a week to 52 per cent despite the speech and a new television advertising campaign. Support for his challenger, Patrick Buchanan, the right-wing newspaper columnist, rose slightly to 19 per cent, while the number of undecided voters climbed to 29 per cent.

President Bush's slump, and the allegations of adultery against Bill Clinton, the embattled Democratic front-runner, have encouraged leading Democrats to consider a late entry, and George Mitchell, the Senate leader, yesterday admitted that he had come under pressure to declare his position. He denied any plans to do so but did say that he believed the allegations had hurt Mr Clinton and diverted attention from his message. "I hope that it won't be a fatal thing."

In Washington, party leaders and officials remain fearful that Mr Clinton's campaign could be sunk if further allegations of marital infidelity surface, but the candidate's team appears outwardly confident that he has weathered the storm. Mr Clinton suggested to reporters on his plane that his campaign song should be Ray Charles' *I ain't going to worry no more*.

Jerry Brown, one of Mr Clinton's Democratic rivals, raised Gennifer Flowers' claims to have been the Arkansas governor's lover during a televised candidates' debate on Friday night, observing that "every time a woman makes a claim, she is always viewed as either lying or a bimbo". Bob Kerrey, another Democratic candidate, rebuked Mr Brown: Mr Clinton said that the public would be the judge.

The debate gave the candidates a welcome opportunity to return to political issues, and several political observers declared Paul Tsongas, the former Massachusetts senator, the winner. Voters tend not to regard Mr Tsongas as presidential material, but he is nevertheless winning respect in his role as an "economic Paul Revere" who will not offer palliatives and bromides. He is now running a strong second after Mr Clinton in New Hampshire.

In a move to strengthen the Bush team, Clayton Yeutter, head of the Republican national committee, is moving to the White House to take charge of domestic policy.

US pay survey, page 17



Hit squads target Indians

BY JEFFREY STALK

CONCERN is growing for the indigenous communities living near the city of Cali, the violent nucleus of Colombia's biggest drug cartel.

Nine days before last Christmas, about 60 hooded and heavily armed men, clad in camouflage uniforms, arrived at a remote property inhabited by a group of Paiz Indians and opened fire. A number of Indians were killed, and then others were shot dead as they lay on the ground. In all, 20 people died in the attack, including ten women and children, and ten others were wounded.

The motive for the mass killing seems to be that local landowners wanted the property and were prepared to resort to a traditional tactic in Colombia to achieve that aim. Since then, six more Indians have been shot in two separate attacks and three people investigating the shootings have either been murdered or have disappeared.

Human rights groups say that such incidents are not unusual in Colombia or Peru. Though paramilitary groups were outlawed in Colombia in 1989, more than 100 of them are still active.



Reaching for peace: a boy sitting on his father's shoulders witnesses 30,000 Salvadoreans raising their hands in a minute's silence to commemorate the estimated 75,000 people who died in El Salvador's 12-year civil war. At an emotional weekend ceremony in the capital, San Salvador, to mark the end of

the conflict, guerrilla leaders and army chiefs sang the national anthem together and swore to work to cement peace. "Never before has such a broad range of our society gathered together in one place in our country," Ruben Zamora, the vice-president of the Salvadorean congress, told the formal installa-

tion ceremony of the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace. President Cristiani and the heads of congress and the supreme court, seated beneath a symbol of a dove, opened a day of formal and popular peace celebrations. As almost 1,000 United Nations peacekeepers spread out

across the Central American country to observe the withdrawal of the 7,000-strong Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front and the Salvadorean army to restricted areas, their commanders stood alongside political leaders in order to be sworn in as members of the peace commission. (Reuters)

Tyson case splits America on class and racial lines

Mike Tyson is portrayed by his supporters as the victim of a white "system" and of a woman with no grounds for complaint, writes Charles Bremner in Indianapolis

MIKE Tyson was determined to have a woman on the day he allegedly raped a beauty queen and started by luring his middle-aged chauffeur to his room and assaulting her, the court in Indianapolis was told.

The tale of Virginia Foster, a teacher who drove a limousine as a second job, was presented by the prosecution in the jury's absence in a vain attempt to persuade Judge Patricia Gifford to allow evidence of the boxer's predatory sexual behaviour during his visit to the Midwest city last July. Tyson told Mrs Foster to carry his luggage to his room at the Canterbury Hotel while his 20-stone bodyguard walked empty-handed alongside, said Greg Garrison, the prosecutor. "Then he closes the door behind her and he assaults her, attempting to kiss her to gratify his sexual aggressions," Mr Garrison told the open court. "He exposed his genitalia to her, but she is 44 and sure as hell she pushed him away." Mr Garrison said the incident demonstrated the boxer's "intention to gratify himself, irrespective of the standards of decency and... of anyone's consent."

His behaviour with Desiree Washington, his 18-year-old actress, was almost identical, Mr Garrison said. The judge, however, decided that the jury should not hear of the incident, along with testimony from other contestants in the Miss Black America pageant

who were to have told the court that the boxer had grabbed and kissed them the same day.

Accounts of Tyson's vast sexual appetite and his less than chivalrous approach to women have not dimmed the support that has been receiving from fans and well-wishers outside the court and across America. After three days of testimony, which has included Miss Washington's account of brutal assault and corroboration from other witnesses, public opinion on the case has split along class and racial lines.

From dinner parties in New York to newspaper columns by white female commentators, the boxer is being cast as a villain whose status as a superstar fighter should not exempt him from respecting a woman's wishes. Gail Collins wrote in New York's *Newsday* yesterday: "This is the man whose own defence lawyers describe as a lecher so aggressive he would proposition a statue."

But in some black and working-class circles Tyson is being cast as the heroic victim of the white "system" and of a woman who has no ground for claiming rape because she accepted an invitation to the

boxer's bedroom at 2am. "What can I say—that's life," said a woman at the "Justice and Fairness for Mike Tyson" rally in Indianapolis on Saturday. "The girl should have known better and has no right messing up his life," another woman remarked.

Hundreds of fans applauded wildly as Tyson appeared at a service in his honour at the Christ Missionary Baptist Church on Friday evening and told the congregation: "I fight with God. I cannot lose." Tyson has been accompanied to court every day by the Rev Henry Payden, his "personal pastor". Mr Payden said: "My gut instinct tells me that Mike was acting as a man."

In front of the jury, Mr Foster confirmed Miss Washington's claim that Tyson had worked hard to persuade her to go out with him when he telephoned after midnight. After Miss Washington emerged from the room, she appeared shocked, dazed and disoriented, said Mrs Foster in her three-hour appearance in the witness box. Two doctors also testified on Saturday that Ms Washington had two abrasions of a type which usually results from non-consensual sex.

Mass grave yields 300 junta victims

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN BUENOS AIRES

MARIA Edelia Garin, aged 28, was abducted and "disappeared" from the Buenos Aires hospital where she practised as a doctor on January 13, 1977. It was not until 15 years later that her family could hold her funeral. They also found out that she had given birth to a healthy child in a torture camp before being shot dead.

Her remains were found and analysed by eight Argentine forensic anthropologists who are digging up a mass grave they discovered in the grounds around a cemetery. So far they have removed 300 bodies from the pit and have identified 50 of them from medical and dental records brought to them by the families of "disappeared" people.

"We have so far excavated 80 per cent of this mass grave, which was used to dump the bodies of tortured people and expect to find the remains of at least another 50 persons," Darío Olmo, aged 34, one of the forensic anthropologists, said.

They claim that the area they are excavating was once the backyard of a former Buenos Aires torture and detention centre used by the military dictatorship in the 1970s. In all, 9,000 people disappeared.

"We carefully lift every bone out and set them out in a laboratory," Señor Olmo said. "From there we begin to

retrace every possible detail, including the cause and time of death. It is a huge task; it will take years to identify each of these remains."

At the pit, six members of the group dug earth from what looks like an ocean of skeletons. They dust them with paint brushes and take them to another team of specialists who begin to match the remains to medical records, *habeas corpus* writs and accounts of people who survived the torture camps. Garin was traced to the mass grave because of a witness account from a woman who was released from the torture camp where they were both held. "We were told by her that the camp was near where we were digging. The woman also said Maria had given birth at the camp," Señor Olmo said. "The remains verified this and we also found traces of an operation Maria had once had."

The team, started in 1986 by Clyde Snow, an American anthropologist, was one of the first to match the skills of anthropological excavation with techniques of forensic science testing. "We were trained for three years and are only now tackling our biggest project," Anahi Giarate, a team member, said. The first pits were excavated in 1989, but laboratory work did not begin until last year. They have also uncovered 100 individual graves.

Edward Albee on indecency charge

EDWARD Albee, the author of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and one of America's most distinguished playwrights, has been charged with indecent exposure after his arrest at a park in Florida (Charles Bremner writes).

Mr Albee, who is aged 63 and has been tweaking America's cultural nerves for decades, was arrested on being found naked on January 19 in a secluded area of a Key Biscayne park favoured by male nude sunbathers. The police, who publicised the incident only on Saturday, had begun patrolling the area after park employees complained that naked men had thrown objects at them when they had intruded on the nudist area. If convicted, Mr Albee could be fined \$1,000 (\$560) or jailed for a year.

Kuwait ban

Bahraini Kuwaiti women, many of whom risked their lives as members of the resistance during the Iraqi occupation, have been barred from voting in elections planned for October. The electoral code permits voting only by men over 21. (AFP)

Court clash

Algiers: Police used tear gas to disperse a crowd outside a court in Jijel, east of Algiers, where a member of the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front was on trial, charged with insulting police and using a place of worship for political activity. (AFP)

Church protest

Sydney: Protesters against a court ruling, barring the ordination of Australia's first Anglican women priests, rallied outside churches nationally. Bomb squads checked St Saviour's cathedral in Goulburn where 11 women had been due to be ordained. (Reuters)

Tokyo quake

Tokyo: At least 30 people were injured when a strong earthquake shook the Tokyo area. No deaths were immediately blamed on the earthquake, which the national central meteorological agency said measured 5.7 on the Richter scale. (AP)

Elephant shot

Palm Bay, Florida: An elephant carrying two children on its back went wild during a circus performance, picked up a man in its trunk, threw him down and tried to stomp on him before police shot it dead in front of screaming spectators. (AP)

Animal passion

Jammu, India: Wildlife officials have freed from captivity an amorous monkey which insisted on hugging and kissing hospital nurses. Thousands of spectators watched as he disappeared into the jungle instantly, hopping from tree to tree. (AFP)

Non-aligned nations seek role in new world order

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN LARNACA

FOREIGN ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement are meeting in Cyprus this week to hammer out a new role for their unwieldy organisation, left marginalised by recent world events.

The movement, which often took the moral high ground, has made little impact since it was founded at the height of the Cold War in the late 1950s by mainly

Third World nations aligned to neither superpower. It was unable to end the eight-year war between Iran and Iraq or to prevent or reverse the invasion of Kuwait. Yugoslavia, currently in the chair, is torn by civil war, and Indonesia, which takes over in September, has recently been condemned for a bloody crackdown in East Timor which it occupied in 1975.

About 20 foreign ministers and 150 delegates from 46 countries will attend the two-day meeting, the first of its kind since the collapse of the Soviet Union. "The movement has to change, and change fast, otherwise it will not survive," George Iacovou, the Cypriot foreign minister, said. He is chairing the meeting of a committee which is to discuss the role and methodology of the movement. "We must adopt a co-operative attitude to the West and the North, and work within the United Nations to have a voice."

Another delegate held out little hope for the meeting which, he said, would be undermined by disagreement between states such as Iran and Syria, pushing for a more confrontational attitude towards the West, and those such as Egypt and Cyprus seeking co-operation. He said: "Unfortunately, not all the progressive countries have sent top-level delegations, so about 50 per cent of those turning up are reactionaries. I do not think we will agree on anything."

He added: "The problem is that the movement relies on consensus, so the lowest common denominator goes. If you try to make a strong resolution on human rights, half a dozen offenders immediately want it watered down. The same goes for democracy."

Whites bar blacks from suburban haven

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

ANGRY whites built roadblocks and dug ditches in a green belt area outside Johannesburg at the weekend to stop nearly 1,000 black squatter families being moved within sight and sound of their doorsteps.

Some had clubs, pickaxe handles and baseball bats, but they were exceptions. Most were white householders who fear their tranquil lifestyle is about to be destroyed. They sympathise with the squatters' plight but would prefer that they go somewhere else. As Paul Barrows, one of their leaders, said: "The bottom line is that they have nowhere to stay and we empathise with that."

The Transvaal provincial administration decided to uproot 750 squatter families from a site at Zevenfontein, northwest of Johannesburg, which has no sanitation, running water or other facilities, and move them to an area where these can be provided. This was to be an 80-acre site at Bloubaarsdorp, outside Randburg, a dormitory town on Johannesburg's northwest border, where most of the squatters work. Bloubaarsdorp is part of a green belt zone whose residents live mainly on individual plots of an acre or more.

Randburg council agreed to the plan without informing the residents. According to André Jacobs, chairman



Vanguard of violence: Eugene Terre Blanche flanked by guards on his farm at Ventersdorp yesterday, as his commandos showed off their firepower

of its management committee, there was no time. Council representatives met Transvaal officials in Pretoria and were told that the land had been expropriated and the squatters would be relocated as soon as arrangements could be made.

Since Thursday night Bloubaarsdorp residents have been manning their barricades to stop the squatters being moved in. At the same time police have been keeping watch on the residents.

John Peebles, a former Zimbabwean and a member of the newly formed residents' association, said: "We are not racist. We have Indian and Coloured

families living here and they have been made welcome."

But this is something different. What's proposed here is that 6,000-odd squatters should be settled over the road from us. I don't think any organisation should be able to rob you of all your capital in one swoop," he said.

Their attitude was strongly criticised yesterday by *City Press*, the black Johannesburg newspaper. In an editorial headed "Lily-white liberals show true colours", it said: "As blacks we know how lily-white northern Johannesburg operates. They are very liberal... Suddenly Zevenfontein came upon

their cosy lives. In one swoop, that which for years was hidden within them came out—the real white liberal attitude to blacks. And we know there are many Zevenfonteins in our country."

Unaware of the growing dispute, the people of Zevenfontein continue to go quietly about their dreary lives, carrying buckets and containers in 90-degree heat to the few taps that supply little more than a trickle of water.

Elmond Gumbo, who has lived there for two years, said he was looking forward to having a decent toilet. "I am looking forward to moving to a place with running

water and sanitation, so at least I can feel human again."

White racism went on parade in the western Transvaal town of Ventersdorp, home of Eugene Terre Blanche, the leader of the neo-fascist Afrikaner Resistance Movement. He is on a £40 bail on charges relating to an AWW demonstration at a meeting addressed by President de Klerk last year in which two AWW members were killed in a confrontation with police.

About 400 AWW members, dressed in khaki drill with Nazi-style insignia, led by 38 members of its *Ystergarde* (Iron Guard) in black battledress and balaclavas, marched through the town. An instructor said they could be likened to Hitler's SS and could be mobilised tomorrow. "Most of them have been trained in the South African Defence Force's elite forces but they are more committed to their cause—white self-determination—than any member of the defence force," he said.

Durban: The African National Congress and the Inkatha Freedom party held their first joint peace rally outside Durban yesterday, declaring an end to fighting that has raged in the Mpumalanga township since the mid-1980s. But police said that eight blacks died in renewed faction fighting at Umlaza, only 15 miles away. (AP)

Rugby tour, page 28

The sphinx loses his cool in unfunny Habash farce



Cresson: her job seems safe for the moment

IN A brave, but probably futile, effort to shelter President Mitterrand and the Socialist government against further damaging fallout from the botched handling of George Habash's visit to France, the Elysée palace declared yesterday that the affair should now be considered closed. Those guilty of serious mistakes had been punished and the law had been allowed to run its proper course, Jack Lang, the presidential spokesman, said.

According to M. Lang, the ultimate Mitterrand loyalist, the controversy over allowing the Palestinian guerrilla leader to enter the country for medical treatment after suffering a stroke in Tunis had been inflamed by the opposition and the media. Loud demands for the resignation of Edith Cresson were part of an "unjust" campaign against the prime minister, he insisted. He also said that neither Roland Dumas, the

When the dust settles, M Mitterrand may be seen as the Habash scandal's main victim. Philip Jacobson in Paris and Christopher Walker in Cairo report on the affair that inflamed the French

foreign minister, nor Philippe Marchand, the interior minister, deserved the political assaults to which they had been subjected over the Habash affair.

But with M Mitterrand still fuming over the humiliation he suffered on the eve of his address last week to the special United Nations Security Council session, some observers still look for further sacrifices beyond the ranks of the high functionaries. The widespread belief that senior aides in the Elysée knew far more about the Habash visit than has so far been admitted increases the pressure on the president to take decisive action closer to home.

In Tunis, Palestinian officials said yesterday that the entire operation was conducted with the greatest secrecy. "We had agreed with France to keep it secret. The answer to the question of how this accord was violated is to be found in Paris," an aide to Yasser Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, said.

"We were surprised to learn that the press were present at Le Bourget airport (in Paris) on Wednesday when Habash arrived, and that they were in front of the Paris hospital where he was taken," the source said. "Who alerted the press in what seems to have been an organised fashion?"

The answer is in Paris, not Tunis," he added.

But to judge by M Lang's script, the prime minister's job seems safe at present, if only because the battered Socialist party machine and morale would virtually collapse if she was sacked before next month's important regional elections. As an old and trusted presidential aide, M Dumas should also survive, though the opposition and the press will continue to wonder aloud how he could have been entirely ignorant of an affair that led to the sacking of his number two.

Less certain is the fate of M Marchand, who wishes critics to believe that he knew nothing of his ministry's preparations to deploy a crack squad to meet, escort and guard Mr Habash as he underwent emergency brain surgery in a Paris hospital. Relatively new to office and quite unknown outside political circles, he could be the one to carry the

can: on all known form, M Mitterrand would not hesitate to jettison him if the moment demands it.

On the periphery of the affair, the earliest casualty will probably be Georgina Dufou, whose personal involvement in the Habash affair as head of the French Red Cross led her to submit her immediate resignation as a valued councillor at the Elysée. A meeting of the Red Cross executive in Paris today is expected to demand that she steps down for having damaged the reputation of the organisation.

When the dust finally settles, it may be found that M Mitterrand was the prime victim of the scandal that struck so cruelly at his pride, even his credibility. Nothing was more damaging to the president's authority during the fiasco than the impression that at the moment of trouble his awesome political nerve may have begun to desert him.

Veteran Mitterrand watchers cannot recall him so edgy, so sensitive to political offence, real or imagined, as in his outburst last week against journalists who dared raise the matter of financial scandals affecting the Socialists. Those shirty remarks about "mad" French officials, supposedly responsible for authorising Dr Habash's entry, the shrill complaints aboard Concorde en route for New York that "I am not some god who sees and decides everything", were not what the French have come to expect during a decade of rule by le sphinx.

In contrast, Dr Habash's reputation as a fading revolutionary has been enhanced by the controversy, which has also plunged French-Arab relations to their lowest point for years. To many younger Palestinians, Dr Habash, who returned to Tunisia at the weekend, with his rigid adherence to marxism-lenin-

ism and association with the former terrorist practice of spectacular hijacks, had become something of an anachronism.

But his stubborn refusal to contemplate any solution to the Palestinian problem that did not involve the destruction of Israel ensured continued support for his Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine among hardliners, despite its outdated ideology.

Although bitterly opposed to the new flexibility shown by the PLO, he was determined that his front would remain within the R.O. umbrella. And despite his long record as a mastermind of terrorist violence, including links with the notorious Carlos the Jackal (Ilich Ramirez Sanchez), Dr Habash continues to be regarded by some PLO supporters as the "conscience" of the movement.

Leading article, page 13

Moscow pleads for reform aid

Yeltsin and Bush affirm era of trust

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND JOHN BEST IN OTTAWA

PRESIDENT Yeltsin flew back to Moscow yesterday after a Camp David meeting with George Bush which gave the Russian leader the valuable and wholehearted support of an American president who previously had distrusted him.

Mr Yeltsin gained no firm pledges of further aid, and only general agreements on nuclear disarmament and other issues. But the leaders did agree to hold two formal summits, the first in Washington before June and the second in Moscow, probably in the run-up to the American presidential election.

The most striking outcome

of the informal three-hour meeting was the two leaders' affirmation of a new era of "friendship and partnership based on mutual trust" between their two nations. The sub-plot was their apparently successful effort to improve their personal relationship now that Mr Bush is no longer constrained by loyalty to Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mr Bush and Mr Yeltsin signed a joint declaration saying that Russia and America no longer regarded themselves as adversaries, pledging to remove all remnants of Cold War hostility, and undertaking to work together to support democracy, resolve

regional conflicts, counter terrorism, and prevent nuclear proliferation.

"From now on, we do not consider ourselves to be potential enemies. That is the historic value of this meeting," said Mr Yeltsin. "There has been written and drawn a new line, and crossed out all of the things that have been associated with the Cold War." The two men discussed their proposals to cut their strategic nuclear missile arsenals more deeply, but said that specifics should be left to experts. James Baker, the Secretary of State, will launch these negotiations on a visit to Moscow within two weeks.

Mr Bush proposed, and Mr Yeltsin endorsed, the idea of a joint centre to employ US and Russian nuclear scientists in research, thereby ensuring the latter do not sell their services to hostile Third World regimes. Mr Bush was non-committal about Mr Yeltsin's call for a global defence system using American "Star Wars" technology. "We reached no decision except to say that we felt it was worth discussing in much more detail," he said.

In his meetings with Mr Bush and congressional leaders, Mr Yeltsin again emphasised Russia's urgent need for Western aid to underpin his reform efforts in the critical months ahead. In Ottawa, angrily denouncing what he called "the myopia" of some of America's leaders, Mr Yeltsin said on Saturday night that the West would be courting disaster if it did not do more to rescue Russia from its economic plight.

He said that, without massive injections of Western aid, Russia's whole economic reform programme would be in danger of collapse. This could lead to the re-emergence of a police regime, with the inherent danger of new confrontations with the West and even war. He made clear it was he was directing his criticisms at Western business leaders as well as political leaders.

■ Moscow: Russia agreed on Saturday to start withdrawing troops from two of the Baltic states within a matter of weeks, official statements said. A Russian delegation headed by Sergei Shakhrai, deputy prime minister, agreed in separate talks to start the withdrawal from Lithuania this month and from Latvia next month. (Reuters)



Dole: sees Yeltsin as the last hope

US rehabilitates Russian leader

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

DRESSED in an open-necked shirt and jumper, the president from Moscow rode with President Bush in a golf cart at Camp David, called his companion "George" and "my friend", and talked of world peace and arms control at a joint press conference.

Back in Washington, he plunged into an enthusiastic crowd of onlookers, then drove to his embassy to receive the leaders of congress. It could have been any one of Mikhail Gorbachev's visits to Washington, but it was not. This was Boris Yeltsin on Saturday, the man who until recently was reviled in the White House as a heavy-drinking boor and demagogue. Now he is the democratically elected leader of Russia, and the imperatives of international politics have changed everything.

The patrician Mr Bush has been forced to lay aside his disdain for the rough-and-ready Russian leader. He understands that the alternative to Mr Yeltsin's fragile rule is renewed dictatorship and oppression. Mr Bush made it his foremost business to show that Mr Yeltsin had filed in Mr Gorbachev's shoes personally and politically and to demonstrate his robust support in every way he could.

Mr Bush signed a joint declaration affirming that America and Russia were no longer adversaries. He gave Mr Yeltsin's painful economic reforms his unqualified endorsement. He agreed to two more summits this year. He

also went out of his way to suggest that he and Boris were the best of chums.

Mr Bush not only flattered Mr Yeltsin by inviting him to his weekend retreat, but arranged a cake with a single candle to celebrate his guest's 61st birthday. "I have a very warm feeling in my heart about what [Mr Yeltsin] has done and is trying to do, and I consider him my friend," Mr Bush told reporters. Mr Yeltsin seemed almost overwhelmed. "I consider I would be very lucky in life both as a political person and just as a man to have met George Bush," he replied.

Congress also treated Mr Yeltsin with a new seriousness and respect. Democratic and Republican leaders spent 70 minutes with him at the Russian embassy. Robert Dole, the senate's Republican minority leader, later called him "the last hope".

Mixed fortunes, page 1
Police chief's visit, page 2



Sole brothers: President Yeltsin admiring a pair of cowboy boots given to him by President Bush on his 61st birthday at Camp David. Robert Strauss, the American ambassador to Moscow, looks on. The boots were made by Mr Bush's shoemaker in Houston

Steel firms say strike inevitable

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

GERMAN steel employers said yesterday that a strike in the industry could not be avoided after last week's overwhelming vote by workers to walk out in support of a pay claim that amounts to £1.60 a week per person.

This appears a ridiculously small sum for either side to countenance a disruptive and damaging stoppage. But so much principle is at stake in Europe's largest steel industry that neither is yet prepared to show any sign of compromise.

The wages committee of the IG Metall union meets formally in Dortmund today to confirm that a strike will go ahead following the 87 per cent vote in favour. Tomorrow, the management committee will meet in Frankfurt to decide which plants to close.

It is likely that only two or three will be affected initially to prove the union's determination, although production would fall quickly and the effects be felt throughout other heavy industries. The employers are determined to hold out as it is more expensive to produce in Germany than anywhere in Europe.

German economy, page 17

Eurocrats roundly defend curveless cucumber edict

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

BRUSSELS Eurocrats are feeling hurt. Last autumn, at the height of the debate over the Maastricht treaty, the men and women of the European Commission stood accused of being a zealous gang of bossyboots who were busily worming their way into what Douglas Hurd called the "nooks and crannies" of British life.

The European Commission's officials said little in public in their own defence. But, as an internal document in the hands of *The Times* shows, the writers of directives on prawn cocktail crisps, condom sizes and the curve in a cucumber think that they have been unjustly maligned. Their private briefing paper, setting out the case for the Commission's defence of its directives, is an odd mixture of the absurd, the pedantic and misunderstood good intentions.

An anonymous official solemnly sets down the reasoning behind rules on the maximum permissible curve in a cucumber. "Common quality norms for perishable goods" have been agreed by all Community governments as part of the planned protection for consumers in the single market, due to be completed at the end of this year.

"Cucumbers are sold in boxes, containing a fixed



number of cucumbers. If cucumbers are of the curved, regular quantities cannot be packed." And in case there might be any lingering doubts, the author solicitously adds that the sale of curved cucumbers will not be forbidden — but they will have to be packed separately.

The indignant officials of directorate-general 3 are especially resentful of the ridicule they have attracted over guidelines on the size of the European condom.

One defensive memo is headed "Safe sex in a single market" and points out that the struggle against Aids depends on condoms being completely reliable. "Inferior quality could have disastrous consequences," it declares.

pointing out that all the 12 governments — Britain included — asked the European Commission to ensure that condoms are of the "necessary quality". An independent committee of experts, headed by the London Rubber Company, will decide on pan-European safety guidelines, which will include such details as minimum length and maximum width.

Four pages of dense self-justification are devoted to the bitter dispute over Viennese whirled, Dundee cake and Peking duck. The Eurocrats attempting to ensure fair competition between food companies tried to write a directive which would stop somebody calling a cheese "Camembert from Normandy" when it came from Chicago or Cumbria.

Irate MEPs accused them of trying to outlaw Swiss rolls which were not proven to come from the Alps, or Brussels sprouts not grown in the Belgian capital. But the memo wearily explains that a merely historical connection does not matter. Cornish pasties, Viennese whirled, Irish stew and something called "le Yorkshire curd tart" are in the clear.

Diary, page 12
Letters, page 13
CBI rejection, page 18

Leaders of Krajina fear coup

Belgrade: Militant Serb opposition to the United Nations peace plan for Yugoslavia was showing no signs of easing yesterday after more than 10 hours of negotiations here. (Our Foreign Staff writes)

After an all-night negotiating session, the leaders of the self-proclaimed Krajina Serb republic issued a statement accusing the Serb-dominated federal presidency of trying to remove them in a "military coup".

Tatar control

Moscow: Tatar nationalists in Kazan, capital of the autonomous republic of Tatarstan in the Russian Federation, proclaimed the restoration of an independent Tatar state that went out of existence more than 400 years ago. (AFP)

Polish ruling

Warsaw: The Polish parliament declared illegal the state of siege ordered in December 1981 under which Solidarity was suppressed. The move could lead to proceedings against General Wojciech Jaruzelski and other former communist leaders. (AFP)

Bucharest rally

Bucharest: More than 5,000 Romanians shouted for the resignation of President Iliescu during a rally in Bucharest for next month's local elections. The rally was held by the Democratic Convention, an opposition bloc uniting 14 parties. (Reuters)

Italian poll

Rome: President Cossiga dissolved the Italian parliament five months early, setting April 5 as the date to elect a new one. Meanwhile, the coalition government led by the Christian Democrats Giulio Andreotti will remain in office. (AP)

Mummy study

Madrid: Scientists will swap the newest information on their oldest objects of study at the first international congress of studies about mummies in Tenerife. It coincides with the opening there of an exhibition of mummies from all over the world.

OSIJEK NOTEBOOK by John Phillips

Besieged city bustles back to life with return of refugees

Thousands of homesick civilians are returning to Osijek, the beleaguered capital of eastern Slavonia, giving a semblance of normality to the biggest European city to come under ground attack since the second world war.

Rolf Graf, a Swiss relief worker for the International Committee of the Red Cross, said: "Osijek has changed a lot in the last two weeks. You see kids again. Traffic lights and trams are working once more. Some restaurants even have reopened."

As many as 7,000 people have streamed back to the Croatian redboubt over the last fortnight, swelling the number of homeless here to about 19,000, according to local Red Cross officials. The

ceasefire officially under way since January 3 between Croat units and forces led by the former Yugoslav army has prompted the reverse exodus, mostly from Pula on the coast and Hungary.

In Osijek, it is a curious type of truce. By day, small children play round the statues in the main square as the blue trams drive by. But by dusk the streets are empty. In the early hours, the din of explosions and machine-gun fire reverberates around the city centre from the front lines across the Drava river two miles away. Most of the homeless stay with friends or relatives. Others sleep on camp beds in the big shelter under the main square next door. At the once fashion-

able Pivnica beer cellar, waiters impeccably dressed in black suits and bow ties serve scruffy refugees, foreign mercenaries and journalists.

At the battered Central Hotel, annex to the shell-damaged town hall, it is almost business as usual. The blacked-out hotel lobby also serves as a bar for guests such as the European Community ceasefire monitors — nicknamed "the ice-cream men" because of their white two-piece suits.

"People are coming back with their wives and children," a jovial Dutch monitor reflected, quaffing beer from an unlabelled brown bottle — all that was on offer from the Central's patient

barman-cum-receptionist-cum-porter. "But it is still dangerous."

Authorities concede that they were concerned lest the influx should increase the risk of civilian casualties if the ceasefire collapses. However, Brigadier Karlo Gorinssek, commander of the Croatian first operational zone, said: "We think that this return of citizens is positive. The town has facilities to protect them. This return is a kind of moral support for the soldiers."

A Croat soldier was killed and two others were wounded near the town on Saturday night. Croatian radio said, reporting a series of "minor violations" of the ceasefire in the republic. Several explosions were heard in Osijek, and bursts of gunfire were heard

near Vinkovci and Djakovo, farther south, the radio said.

Doctors and nurses at the Opca Bolnica hospital are beginning to work on upper floors again, easing the pressure on underground wards and operating theatres where doctors were confined during heavy shelling. Serious damage to the main building from shells remains to be repaired. In early January the International Committee of the Red Cross brokered an agreement by the warring sides to respect the neutrality of the hospital. Hospital officials say the accord has mostly been kept.

Wounded soldiers recuperating in the underground wards seemed to be keeping up their spirits while doctors anxiously

monitored the progress of their unconscious comrades under intensive care. Milenko Zivkovic, his legs badly wounded by a mine, gave a visiting photographer the V-for-Victory sign. On the wall of the ward, a photograph of the Pope giving his blessing was positioned beside a pin-up calendar.

Brigadier Gorinssek, a Slovene who has lived in Croatia for 30 years, seemed cheerful in his sandbagged headquarters as he plotted Osijek's defence. But he had no illusions about the respite. "This so-called peace, without United Nations forces, will not last for a long time. There are many violations of the ceasefire from the enemy side in Osijek. The future is not so brilliant."

The stunts that stunt debate

Both main parties are trying to avoid real discussion, says Peter Riddell

The public has every right to be annoyed by the pre-election debate. The politicians, and parts of the press, are giving voters a misleading view of the choices. This is not simply a matter of smears and stunts, such as yesterday's sensationalising and distortion of routine contacts between Labour leaders and Soviet officials, the parading of Aneurin Bevan's nephew as a supporter of Tory health plans, and Labour posters showing Norman Lamont as a traitor. All that is degrading enough, though no worse than in past elections.

More important is how politicians are trying to define the debate in narrow terms. To read this weekend's speeches you would think that the election is about small shifts in the distribution of taxes and spending, and about the poll tax, with more of the same soon about the health service, education and the unions.

Yet the fundamentals of economic policy are largely ignored: the position of sterling in the exchange-rate mechanism and interest rates. These will have more impact on the economy than the tax changes now in the headlines.

The debate has narrowed because the main parties are in greater agreement than in the past. For instance, accepting the ERM, Tony Benn has a point when he complains about the stifling impact of this cross-party consensus. Labour's policy shift of the late 1980s means that much of the battleground of the 1983 and 1987 elections has become common ground. There are no longer arguments about privatisation or council house sales, about Britain's possession of nuclear weapons and its membership of the European Community. Remaining differences, though important in detail, are exaggerated to appear fundamental even when they are not.

A consensus on basics gives politicians the comfort of huddling together to avoid awkward choices. Baldwin's evasions over defence in the 1935 election were not unique. The word devaluation is not mentioned by any front-benchers — apart from one or two Labour spokesmen whispering privately out of earshot of John Smith — even though it is widely debated by economists. This is like Harold Wilson's obsessive ban in the mid-1960s on references to devaluation in even the most secret cabinet papers.

Similarly, the belated cross-party support for Trident (even if without agreement on the number of warheads on each missile) means that there has been no real debate about defence strategy when it is most needed. Labour does not want to risk looking unpatriotic, while the Tories do not want to face up to the implications of the end of the cold war. On Europe also, all parties have used the Maastricht deal as a means of deferring decisions on the future of the Community — the form of monetary union and the

scope of social policy — which might reopen internal splits. But this evasion misleads voters about the difficulties Britain faces, and the limited action that any government can take. It has been clear since the big increases in public spending and borrowing announced in the autumn statement that neither party has much leeway to achieve its plans. Last week's green budget from the Institute for Fiscal Studies and Goldman Sachs suggested that, unless the economy grows more rapidly than expected, the Tories will be unable both to cut the basic rate of income tax from 25p to 20p in the pound and to balance the budget, while without raising taxes Labour will have little scope to go beyond its short-term spending pledges until 1994-95.

The implications are too embarrassing to be admitted now.

'A consensus on basics gives politicians the comfort of huddling together to avoid awkward choices'

Neither party is prepared to discuss long-term spending trends. The Tories' attempt in the mid-1980s was abortive because the implications were politically unacceptable. In practice, no party has much scope because of the steady growth of social security and health budgets. In America, also, last week's budget showed that expenditure on mandatory programmes, mainly pensions and welfare payments, has grown from being roughly equal to domestic discretionary spending in the mid-1960s to more than three times as much now. In Britain, there is little public discussion on the scale of resources devoted, say, to the elderly relative to children. It is taboo to point that, though some old people are very poor, the elderly benefited during the 1980s from high real interest rates, the rise in house prices and the growth of occupational pension schemes.

Even where there is no consensus the parties are eager to dodge issues. The Tories are reluctant to debate questions of constitutional reform such as Scottish devolution, and central/local government relations, while Labour does not want to talk about how it will curb public claims by public sector unions.

The public's view of the election is not as narrow as the campaign managers would like it to be. To the extent that real choices about the economy and defence are not being presented by the parties, the electorate is being short-changed.

Daniel Johnson on a Jewish accusation that the betrayal of Christ is an anti-Semitic myth

Rehabilitating Judas

Judas Iscariot. To Christians, the word is an accusation hurled from hell, the disciple whose name became synonymous with betrayal. In the last circle of the Inferno, Virgil hardly needs to tell Dante the name of the sinner whom Satan himself is championing in his jaws.

But Judas has sometimes evoked sympathy. The 19th century French scholar Ernest Renan, whose *Life of Jesus* was the most famous attempt to treat Christ as a purely historical figure, saw Judas as a zealot, an anti-Roman agitator who believed in Jesus as a political messiah, but betrayed him out of disappointment with his unwieldy gospel of peace and love.

Even Renan, however, accepted the fact of Christ's betrayal at the hands of the Iscariot. Now Judas has found an altogether more radical apologist in Hyam Maccoby, a distinguished Jewish biblical scholar. *Judas Iscariot and the Myth of Jewish Evil*, to be published later this month by Peter Halban, continues the argument of Maccoby's earlier works. In essence, he thinks that Jesus was an orthodox Jewish messiah, and the apostle Jude or Judas was one and the same person as Judas Iscariot. There was no betrayal of Jesus and his execution by the

Romans had nothing to do with the Jews. His life and death were transformed by the apostle Paul from Gnostic and Hellenistic sources into a mystery cult of human sacrifice and atonement.

For Maccoby, the invented betrayal of Jesus by Judas on behalf of the Jewish people is an integral part of this myth: through the Pauline church the bacillus of anti-Semitism entered the life-blood of Christianity, through Christianity, it passed into post-Christian ideologies such as Nazism and Marxism. Maccoby states baldly: "Every political system that has a concept of an active principle of evil in the world elects the Jews for the diabolic role."

I shall leave to others the task of engaging with Maccoby's textual and other evidence. My concern is with his indictment of the Christian religion. He does not see as accidental the frequent identification of Judas with the Jews in Christian culture, and suggests that this anti-Semitic caricature — to be found not only in the anonymous authors of medieval



Symbol of evil: Judas in a medieval manuscript

passion plays and their immediate successors (such as Marlowe and Shakespeare), but in writers of exemplary tolerance, a George Herbert or a Laurence Sterne — is inscribed in the Christian structure of thought. In order to "rehabilitate" Judas, "the myth of God incarnate" would have to be accepted by all Christians as exactly that: a myth and no more.

Is the Christian view of the Jews as crass as all that? In what sense can the conflation of Judas and the Jewish nation be said to be implicit in Christianity itself? Maccoby remarks to that effect by a few later Christian theologians, but he admits that in the New Testament "This... would seem to have been unconscious". Is it not a dubious policy to build such a ferocious indictment of a religion on a link which, in its canonical texts, is merely unconscious or implicit?

The fact that many (but by no means all) predominantly Christian societies have discriminated against Jews, or even murdered them, does not prove that Christian doctrine is the cause of such persecution. It seems even more far-fetched to lay the blame for all the anti-Semitic monstrosities practised by Nazi, communist and other allied systems on so-called "Pauline Christianity".

In reality, Christian attitudes to the Jews have always derived from a mixture of admiration and mistrust. This is due not least to the vital part played by the Old

Testament in Christianity, the Judaic component that helps to distinguish it from Gnosticism and the early heresies. The survival of Judaism as a living faith has always been important to Christian eschatology. St Paul himself, Maccoby's villain, saw the Jews at witnesses to the truth until the Second Coming.

The story of Judas is disturbing even to the disinterested agnostic how much more so to Christians. Yet it is possible to disentangle the historical Judas story from the hideous anti-Jewish interpretation of later times. Judas — whoever he was, whatever he did, whatever he did it — was not a representative of his people. Maccoby's parsing shot, that "the restoration of honour to the name Judas" would do the same for "the people of Judah who still bear this name", falls into the same trap as the anti-Semites, only in reverse.

Christianity and Judaism are incompatible, but neither religion is intrinsically intolerant of others. Jesus and the other disciples were no less Jewish than Judas; equally, Judas was one of the first Christians. We are all Jews and Gentiles, capable of betrayal. We all need God's forgiveness and, in spite of Dante, we may all (even Judas) hope to receive it.

Whose death is it anyway?

The flourishing gurus of suicide are helping end lives that might better be saved, writes Bernard Levin

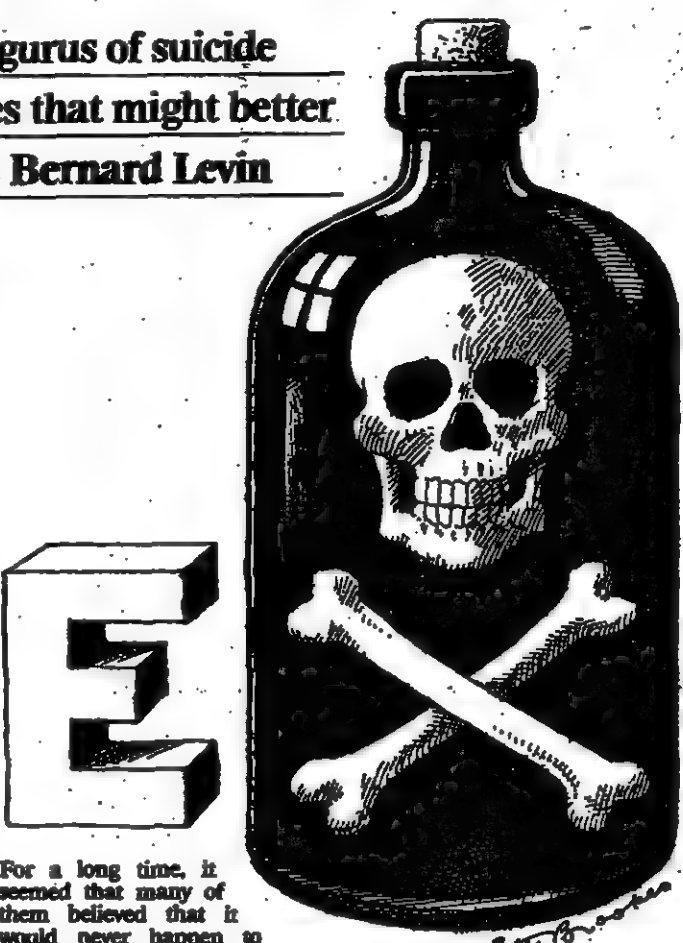
Given the choice, I would rather not be married to Mr Derek Humphry. Mr Humphry might reasonably say that he would in no circumstances consider marrying me, but I thought I should make my position plain. Any such approach would be — politely, I hope — unambiguously declined. But before I explain I must digress.

It has long been true that anyone going into an American hospital, to have treatment for whatever malady, is immediately rushed into the operating theatre, there to undergo a full and generally successful caesarean. True, in many cases the treatment has led to a serious attack of insanity, usually traced to the use of an unsterilised IOU, and when, on top of that, doctors have set in, recovery is rare.

Now, however, in words of a more ancient provenance, American medicine can be said to have added a new terror to death. All people going into a hospital there, for any reason — triple heart bypass, cholecistitis, brain surgery, grazed knee — are formally asked whether, should they later find themselves brain-dead and on a life-support machine, the machine should be switched off and death allowed to take over.

This remarkable state of affairs has come about by legislation (the Patient Self-Determination Act), and anyone but an American legislator would already have realised that the mortality figures will soar heavenwards (*abscis omen*) when the thing gets into its stride, fallen arches or liver transplant, the sufferer will now have to worry about the ghastly document, the very wording of which must settle the hash of many of those who go into hospital with a light heart and come out in a heavy casket.

That is not the extent of the Americans' obsession with death.



For a long time, it seemed that many of them believed that it would never happen to them. But now, it seems, so far from Americans insisting on immortality, they are practising self-ending in great and growing numbers. Which is where Mr Humphry, to say nothing of his bank balance, comes in.

Mr Humphry has had the misfortune to have had two wives, both of whom died of cancer. Let us look at his first bereavement, and his first book. His wife, Jean, had cancer, and was told that she would not survive the year. Mr Humphry, against the day when she would wish to die, laid in a stock of overdozes, and when the day did come, he records the dialogue as follows:

"Derek? Jean called softly. "Yes, darling?" "Is this the day?"

I panicked. My mouth dried up and I could not control the tears which rushed to my eyes. It was the most awful moment of my life. However, I had to answer. "Yes, my darling, it is."

... took her in my arms and kissed her. "Goodbye, my love." "Goodbye, darling." She lifted the mug and gulped the contents swiftly, leaned back on her pillow and closed her eyes. She did not need further help.

That sickening stuff is from Mr Humphry's book; naturally, I have no knowledge of its authenticity, and the only other person who does is in no position to correct errors, if any. He married again, as we shall learn.

The book about the first Mrs Humphry and her ending was successful, to a considerable extent because there was, or Mr Humphry said there was, a likelihood that it would lead to prosecution for him; he had helped to kill his wife, and in British law there is no extenuating clause for those who do so, even for the purest motives. He was not charged, and doubtless the book's sales rose again. In any case, he and his new wife had thought it best to settle in America, where they founded an organisation called Hemlock, devoted to helping people wishing to kill themselves to do so (I am sorry about this macabre stuff, but Mr Humphry is macabre, very). Anyway, Hemlock began to flourish

throughout the United States, and there Mr and the second Mrs Humphry are to this day. Or rather, he is. The second Mrs Humphry also contracted cancer (she has since died of it), whereupon Mr Humphry left her, explaining his removal from the matrimonial home and health by means of — an up-to-date fellow, Mr Humphry, as well as a macabre one — a message on the matrimonial answering machine.

They fell out very badly; perhaps I might quote from another of Mr H's telephone messages to his former beloved. It went like this: "If you continue this stupid fighting one step more, I shall give your sister and niece a full statement that you've committed a crime in helping your parents to die. They will then be able to sue you for the \$300,000 you inherited... I'm in deadly earnest."

Now, perhaps, you understand

why I would be loath to enter into marriage with Mr Humphry. But I must now explain why it is in the highest degree unlikely that he would feel a need to join with me in holy matrimony. For Mr Humphry has recently published a book in the United States called *Final Exit*, which has turned out to be an enormous success, soaring up the bestseller list. Who needs Levin?

Final Exit is a manual of suicide, which describes ways in which a man or woman (or, it occurs to me, a child) might practise self-ending. It is immensely thorough, describing any number of methods, and God knows (though Mr Humphry certainly does not) how many people with minds troubled in various ways — financial, matrimonial, gerontological — have been helped by Mr Humphry's advice to end a life which might, with a little help from a friend, a neighbour, a priest or a fine day, go on happily for many years.

Mr Humphry's book is banned in Britain. Here it is a crime to give instruction in suicide or to help anyone to do it. But of course contraband copies of Mr Humphry's book are coming into the country. Rope, anybody? (No, I must be fair: Mr Humphry urges those looking for the exit not to find it by hanging themselves; it is unpleasant for the subject and messy for those who have to clear up.)

Mr Humphry has recently had something of a setback; there was a proposal before the legislature in Washington State which would have made it legal for doctors to kill patients directly, by giving an overdose of a lethal drug, or by an equally death-inducing injection. A referendum was held, and the proposal, heavily tipped to succeed, was defeated by 54 per cent to 46 per cent. Still, although he failed to conclude such a notable advance in medicine, Mr Humphry, his book and his organisation are no doubt flourishing, so if you want to know the best way of doing yourself in, you know where to go. As for me, matrimony is not the only offer from him I would shun. I would not accept a free copy of his suicide manual either.



...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

At Chesterfield railway station, entrance and exit is gained through double swing doors. Each door, left and right, has a handle, but you cannot tell whether either is supposed to be pushed or pulled. You would calculate from this that the traveller who arrives at Chesterfield, faces the doors and takes a guess would have a 50 per cent chance of getting it right.

But one of the pair is permanently bolted; this can neither be pushed nor pulled. Looking at the doors, however, you cannot tell whether it is the left or the right which is the dud.

The reader may care to recalculate. Your conclusion should be that the traveller stands a one in four chance of getting it right first time. The traveller who does is lucky, and the only one (if to push is the answer) who does not have to put down all his luggage in order to pull. The unluckiest one is the traveller who first pulls the dud door, then pushes it, then, turning his attention to the door which does open one way, tries to open it the other way. Only on the fourth try does one of the doors yield.

That is, if our traveller reaches a fourth try. For, with half an hour to kill the other day, I kept watch at the doors and observed otherwise. Surprisingly often, human patience snaps at the third unsuccessful push or pull. The traveller turns away from the door, convinced there is something wrong with it.

On doing so he finds an alternative set of swing doors on the other side of the booking hall. These are arranged in the same way as the first, and he must begin the pushing, pulling routine all over again.

You will have done the calculation already. It is possible (should our friend be lucky at the second pair of doors only on his fourth attempt for a traveller to have tried seven ways of getting out of Chesterfield railway station and succeeded only on the seventh.

And that would be the outcome only if our friend reasons his encounter with the second pair of doors more calmly than he reasoned his encounter with the first. Typically, however, this is not so.

Remember we are dealing with an intellect that has grasped unsuccessfully with one pair of doors already and turned to the second in something approaching despair. Now he tries to push the left hand one. No luck, so he pulls. Still no luck. He turns to the right hand door and gives one final, angry push. No luck.

The voice of reason should tell him not that he is close to failure, but that he must be close to success. He looks around the small booking hall and observes that there are no other doors except those that lead back on to platform one, for Sheffield, Leeds and York; or (via the stairs) platform two, for Derby, Leicester and London. So the swing doors are his only way

out. He left only one option untried with the first pair of doors, and there now remains only one untried option with the second. His confidence should rise.

Sadly, I found that this is not how our friend tends to see it. Angerily abandoning the attempt to get through the second doors just when he should persist, he hauls his luggage back over the hall to the first, to have a second go at these, in case he missed something first time.

Your arithmetic has raced ahead of my prose; he should try the one option he left untried the first time. It must work.

Sadly, I found this rarely happened. Our friend, you see, has now forgotten what he tried before. He must start again. Allow the behavioural psychologist in you to take over from the mathematician, and you will guess that the traveller tends to try the same things, in the same order, as before. But this was the routine that failed. Typically, our friend abandons it after a deservingly push and pull. He is losing self-confidence. He hauls his baggage back over to the second set of doors, and...

I have used Chesterfield station for 14 years. The doors have always been like that. I have cursed them a thousand times. Ten thousand people curse them every week. Not, I believe, since the days of voodoo has a small quantity of voodoo been cured so heartily or so often as the swing doors into Chesterfield railway station.

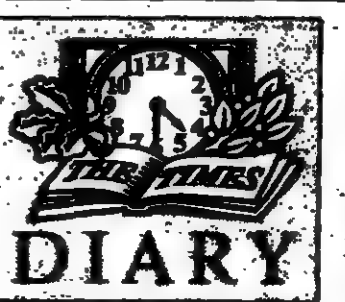
Kremlin capers

THE *Sunday Times* story yesterday about alleged close links between Labour and the Kremlin raised wry smiles among some who observed those relationships at first hand. They recall a Russian hierarchy that was far from fascinated by Neil Kinnock and his colleagues. Nor, it seems, did Kinnock ever labour under any illusions about the Russians.

On the Russian side, the pattern was set when Kinnock and Denis Healey, then shadow foreign affairs spokesman, met Konstantin Chernenko, the ailing Soviet leader. Journalists who spoke Russian heard Chernenko enquire of an aide: "Who is this Neil Kinnock?"

Healey, too, despite having a relationship with the Russians dating back to his days as the party's international secretary, was not always recognised. He was once barred from a reception at the Kremlin to mark the 40th anniversary of victory in Europe. "In desperation, I pulled out my wallet and showed my old age pensioners' bus pass from the GLC," Healey recalls. It worked.

Healey turned into a skilled spokesman-baiter. In 1984, he fairs spokesman met Konstantin Chernenko, the ailing Soviet leader. Journalists who spoke Russian heard Chernenko enquire of an aide: "Who is this Neil Kinnock?" Healey, too, despite having a relationship with the Russians dating back to his days as the party's international secretary, was not always recognised. He was once barred from a reception at the Kremlin to mark the 40th anniversary of victory in Europe. "In desperation, I pulled out my wallet and showed my old age pensioners' bus pass from the GLC," Healey recalls. It worked.



At the World Cup it was Puccini's *Nessun Dorma* and at this month's Winter Olympics it will be Verdi. The rousing chorus from *Nabucco* — "Va, pensiero, sull' ali dorate" — will herald the BBC's coverage of the games. This is rather appropriate as the words mean: "Fly, thought, on wings of gold."

Haul of fame

MICHAEL JACKSON has called on a medley of American superstars for his latest music video, premiered in the US last night. Magic Johnson, the basketball player who tested HIV positive last year, opens the film by smashing on a large dinner gong like the Rank musicman. Johnson's worldwide fans can look forward to the sight of him stripped to the waist, while Jackson's followers will be able to savour his first on-screen kiss.

Remember *The Time*, the second video to accompany Jackson's new *Dangerous* album, is set in ancient Egypt and features comedian Eddie Murphy and the black model and actress Inna, who plays Queen Neferiti. Jackson appears in a monk's habit which he strips off to reveal a golden, Flash Gordon-style space suit and skirt. He enraptures Neferiti with his frenzied dancing

that Eddie Murphy orders his guards to capture him. After a chase through the back alleys of Cairo, Jackson and Inna end up in each other's arms and kiss passionately.

India's links with the Raj are not entirely over. Marc Curzon, a descendant of Lord Curzon, viceroy from 1898 to 1905, is touring the sub-continent on a bicycle. Curzon, a 24-year-old student, set off from London in September with two friends on a trip to Hong Kong.

Southern comfort

WHERE better to write a 300-year history of a Berkshire village than in the depths of southern France? That, at least, is the thinking of Adam Thorpe, who has buried himself in the foothills of the Cévennes to write *Ulverton*, which chronicles a fictional village from 1650 to 1988.

Speaking from his French retreat, Thorpe says: "I armed myself with 100 books from England, and a lot of notes from the Public Record Office. This is a remote area and I really do feel inspired when I wander off into the moun-

tains and see a shepherd leading his goats."

"But I also feel a certain homesickness for the Downlands of Berkshire which spurs on my writing. My house here is also just right: it's a 500-year-old olive mill with its own historical tale."

Changing places

EUROCRATS may be notorious for their conservatism but this year they are daring to change the order in which EC countries hold the six-month rotating presidency. The countries which are lumbered with this from July to December, which will next be Britain, complain they get a raw deal. Nothing much happens in Brussels over the summer, which leaves a mad rush from October to prepare for the December summit.

So... this year Britain will hand over to Denmark instead of Belgium, the usual successor. Every other country will then change with the next in alphabetical order. Douglas Hurd, hoping that he will still be foreign secretary in July, is said to be delighted that Denmark will join him in the troika of past, present and future presidents. The Danes are, after all, the most sceptical Europeans after the British.

This move really does break the mould, which has been fixed by the even number of members. But it could all change again if the Community opens its doors to new members.

Baroness Jeger of St Pancras points out that she is not Jenny Jeger's mother as we reported in *Saturday's diary*. "I am only bright young Jenny's old auntie," she says.



PROFESSIONAL FOUL?

The professions have long occupied an enviable niche in the British class structure. The doctor, the lawyer, the accountant, the architect, the surveyor, the academic: all basked in the desiderata of civilised life. Work was stimulating; security of employment was substantial. Supply of practitioners was kept just short of demand by control over entry into the profession, often backed by statute. A sufficient and often ample income could therefore comfortably be enjoyed. Above all, practitioners could expect near-universal admiration and respect, untouched by the peculiar British prejudice against commerce and industry.

To ensure the best possible service to customer, client or patient, lengthy and expensive training had to be undergone. This was both for the acquisition of appropriate professional skills and for a long and gradual initiation into the ethos and tradition of that professional sub-class. But long and poorly remunerated training had the incidental effect of putting substantial barriers in the way of those who might wish to practise such professions. Unpaid or underpaid labour was required of would-be and trainee barristers and doctors. Accountants had to pass examinations which rivalled in difficulty the legendary tests set to Chinese civil servants.

And what starts as a necessary professional criterion can eventually become a blatant restrictive practice, the desirable protection of the public giving way to the undesirable protection of professional privilege. Those who have earned the rights and privileges of professional status the hard way will not gladly see their ranks diluted and their space invaded by others who have found an easier route. So academics will prize their "tenure". Teachers will demand graduate-only entry. Advertising agents, insurance brokers, even estate agents, will organise themselves in quasi-professional bodies to uphold standards and to restrict competition from — so they say — the "cowboys".

Little of this has changed in the past decade. One achievement of Thatcherism was to diminish the power of those trade unions that organised manual workers. The professional closed shops, the trade unions of the middle classes, survived intact. Margaret Thatcher bequeathed what she inherited: a legal profession divided between barristers and solicitors; a medical profession divided between surgeons, general practitioners, paramedics and nurses; neither profession eager to examine, let alone change, its traditional internal demarcations and restrictions.

There is a plausible case for each restriction: the enhancement of the public interest, the protection of public safety and the long-term nourishment of expertise. Each has its objections too. Combinations and cartels of private capital and labour are rightly limited by law, and their control has been rigorously extended by recent parliaments. The willingness of these professions from such reforms counts among the more damaging hypocrisies of British public life.

Tory ministers have toyed with it. But Lord Mackay's attempts to reform the legal profession were amended to death, showing how far the reforming zeal applied to trade unions withered when faced with professional union opposition. The cause of reform, however, is not yet lost. The surface ice hides great currents flowing below, mostly moved by marketplace pressure. In a series of Monday editorials *The Times* will examine the challenges facing individual professions in the 1990s. Each is different and the symptoms of stress vary. Yet common elements can be distinguished.

The dominant one is the decline of deference on the part of those who seek the help of a profession. Not all professionals wear uniforms, but each was trained to expect the respect implied by the doctor's

white coat and the barrister's wig. A professional opinion, once sought, was to be accepted. A second opinion, and by implication a testing of the market, would be impudent and very costly. (The NHS enshrined the right to a second opinion, but only after fierce argument from doctors.)

Today's educated layman is increasingly ready to challenge his professional adviser. The lawyer and the accountant are no longer left to administer the rules, but asked to find a way round them. The professional is expected to deliver: to make the patient better, the company profitable, the building beautiful and the case winnable. No latitude is left for failure, little for ethics.

With this has come a transatlantic import, a willingness to sue if satisfaction is not given. Time was when the consumer of a professional service was a willing victim of monopoly practices. If advice was bad — too bad for the customer. Today, redress is sought. Architects may spend a quarter of their income on indemnity insurance. Arthur Andersen, the accountants, find themselves sued for up to \$1 billion in the De Lorean affair. British obstetricians now pay nearly £2,000 a year for malpractice cover. Surveyors are allocating up to 6 per cent of turnover to the same end. Lawyers even sue lawyers.

The professions, unused to consumer criticism, hardly know where to turn in the storm. And the marketplace too is insatiable. Professional marketing is responding, aided by the collapse of monopolistic bans on advertising. Solicitors now mount "make-a-week" hospitals to advertise for patients. This must change the relationship between the professions and their clients. It is hard to keep an aloof detachment from a client whose custom has been tamed.

While the professions may maintain national monopolies over entry, they cannot resist the onward march of the European Community's competition policy. The imposition of mutual recognition of professional qualifications is near, though resistance in Germany, Greece and Spain remains. The European Court has used its powers to prevent unreasonable insistence on local knowledge and qualifications. The market for professions is less rigidly national than it was; and the process is unlikely to stop here.

Already British accountants dominate the European market. British architects are not far behind. French hospitals are bidding for British business. Sensible professions will welcome the competition. Auditing, for example, are operating in a market which is no longer growing domestically. Their best opportunity for expansion lies in the rest of Europe. Competition will be a spur to efficiency. And without efficiency, Britain's professions will wither, whatever support they continue to enjoy in Whitehall and Westminster.

To the customer these developments are wholly good. Increased competition will reduce prices. Legal redress, provided the courts exercise restraint, will improve standards and ensure that the burden of failure lies where it ought to lie. But politics cannot remain aloof much longer. Market pressure will demand legal reform of professional privilege, as it did in the City before the Big Bang. The Labour party has a strong professional base, particularly in the public sector, but need not show undue tenderness to well-rewarded and powerful professions. The Conservatives, if they remain serious about the supply side of the economy, should extend the good work done on trade union monopoly to the middle classes.

For the professions themselves, the last decade of the millennium will be a critical one. Hard questions have to be asked, difficult dilemmas must be grappled with, so that increased competition really does make for a better service for the customer. Next Monday we examine the fate of the accountants.

COUP DE GRACE

George Habash's brief visit to Paris was an unqualified fiasco. The country's top civil servants, including the secretary-general of the Quai d'Orsay, have been sacked. The socialist party is in embarrassed disarray. The opposition is calling for the dismissal of the interior and foreign ministers, and many now say that Edith Cresson, the hapless prime minister, may yet have to pay the price of her government's incompetence.

But President Mitterrand's angry denunciation of his "mad" underlings will not be enough to distance him from the most damaging scandal since the Greenpeace affair. A demoralised government has acted without any compass except that of expediency. The affair could end in the premature resignation of an elderly president widely perceived as having lost his political touch.

The incident is yet another in a chain of misfortunes to hit an accident-prone government. In itself it does not necessarily point to disarray and paralysis at the top. Yet it has reinforced such a public perception, which has already made Mme Cresson the most unpopular prime minister for a decade and led France's neighbours to speak of a *fin de siècle* drift in Paris. The more an incredulous public learns, the more pointed its questions. Who authorised Mr Habash's entry? Was it his first visit? Why did a top Red Cross official and presidential adviser encourage him to go to Paris? Why were armed police on hand to meet and guard him? Who tipped off the press and for what motive?

The government's response has been equally incredible. Officials could not ignore the inevitable public outrage. George Habash, as leader of the headline terrorist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine was responsible for the terrorising of passengers hijacked to Entebbe as well as the seizure and destruction of four planes forced

down in 1970 in the Jordan desert. But a move to arrest him brought warnings that the PFLP would take revenge on French targets anywhere in the world. In light of France's penchant for making deals with kidnappers and terrorists, this blackmail appears to have worked. Officials decided Mr Habash, in Paris for what his wife called a "routine check-up", was "too ill" to be interviewed by security police. Yet he was not too ill to be bundled aboard a plane, or so unable to speak that he could not telephone his family in Jordan to say he felt fine.

What is particularly damaging in the eyes of French voters is not the cynicism of expelling the unwanted patient: government has long been seen as a dirty business masked only by its practitioners' suave presentation. It is the cloddish stupidity of those at the top, who either did not know what was going on and abdicated responsibility or knew and were lying. They have made a laughing-stock of the state — "the state goes mad," as *Libération* declared.

For the French, the smooth functioning of the body politic has long been a source of pride. Senior officials, educated at the *grandes écoles*, are expected to be efficient, sophisticated, ruthless if necessary, but above all capable of acting in France's interests. Now the administrative organs have brought ridicule upon themselves, and France has lost face among its allies and in the Middle East. On the eve of an important United Nations summit, President Mitterrand suffered a cruel blow to his pride and credibility.

France is a power in Europe, in the Middle East and in the United Nations Security Council. Its views need to be clear and coherent. George Habash has performed another act of terrorism in blowing up public confidence, aided and abetted by bungling at the heart of the French government.

Challenging the Tories on taxes

From Mr Giles Radice, MP for Durham North (Labour)

Sir, By telling the House of Commons (report, January 29) that there "will be no VAT increase" Mr Major has undermined the credibility of the Conservative party's fiscal arithmetic. In addition to plans for increasing public spending (estimated by the Henley Centre as £25 billion), the Conservatives are also promising both to eliminate the Budget deficit and to reduce income tax from 25p to 20p. The combined cost of these last two comes to at least £35 billion, making £60 billion in all. The only way that all these commitments add up is if the Tories increase indirect taxes, above all VAT.

In the past, Conservative spokesmen have always kept their options open by using the time-honoured formula that they had "no plans to increase value-added tax". This was understandable because, of course, under recent Conservative governments, VAT has been increased from 8 per cent to 17.5 per cent. Indeed, the Conservative 1991 campaign guide actually says that one of the key Tory objectives is "to switch the burden of taxation, to some extent, from taxes on earnings to taxes on spending".

Now the prime minister has categorically denied that a Conservative government would raise VAT. Sir Geoffrey Howe made a similar denial before the 1979 election, after which he put up VAT from 8 per cent to 15 per cent. But if Mr Major is sincere in his pledge, it follows that he will have to abandon his commitment to balance the Budget and reduce income tax to 20 per cent. He cannot have it both ways.

Yours faithfully,
GILES RADICE,
House of Commons.
January 29.

From Mr Roland Sperry-Jones
Sir, To compare the socialist proposal to increase National Insurance contributions with the Maxwell pension funds is probably over the top. But Dr Torrance (letter, January 29) misses the point. If National Insurance contributions are to fund national insurance, then they should rightly be a per capita charge.

The distinction in the socialist approach is to pretend that removing the National Insurance contribution ceiling is not the same as increasing higher rates of income tax. It is that presentation which is essentially dishonest, together with the blatant vote-buying which says to nine out of ten people, vote for us and our increased spending will not cost you a penny. This is simply a permutation of Denis Healey's "we will tax the rich until they squeal".

I do not entirely subscribe to the view that all taxation is legalised theft. In a civilised society we pay taxes partly in order to assist those in genuine poverty. The problem with the socialist dogma is that the increased taxation they are proposing is to be spent wastefully in a non-discriminatory (i.e., non-means-tested) manner.

Yours faithfully,
ROLAND SPERRY-JONES,
8 The Gateway, Woodham,
Woking, Surrey.
January 29.

Student funding

From the President of the National Union of Students

Sir, The findings of the Mori poll (report, January 30) showing that parents would be "willing to pay top-up fees" for their children's higher education cannot be taken seriously when 30 per cent of parents now fail even to make the assessed contribution to top up their maintenance grants.

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN TWIGG, President,
National Union of Students,
Nelson Mandela House,
461 Holloway Road, N7,
January 30.

Legal-aid fees

From Mr Ian Kelcey

Sir, The Lord Chancellor, in his letter of January 24, refers to the average payment per legal-aid case having risen by 81 per cent. My understanding is that that payment includes remuneration to solicitors for attending police stations, following the bringing into force of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

Solicitors are now under an obligation to attend the police stations and clients have the right to free legal advice when in custody.

This, of course, was a piece of legislation which this government was responsible for implementing. If the Lord Chancellor's figures include payment for this service it is hardly surprising that there has been a large percentage increase.

Is it therefore the Lord Chancellor's intention that solicitors in private practice should be asked to subsidise the cost of implementation of this Act?

Yours faithfully,
IAN KELCEY,
Kelcey & Hall (solicitors),
Fosters Chambers,
17 Small Street,
Bristol, Avon.
January 24.

Case for competition on the railways

From Mr P. J. Coster

Sir, Oh dear! And just when I had thought that more enlightened attitudes might be brought to bear on the future of rail transport than those of the Marples-Beeching era, too!

There may indeed be two routes to Scotland as your second leader proclaims ("Mr Riffkin's folly", January 27), but a glance at the map will show that there is only one route to the intermediate cities, Newcastle or Leeds for instance, on one route, or Liverpool or Manchester on the other, and to many other centres of considerably greater significance for BR's income than Edinburgh or Glasgow. The same principle applies to towns lying between London and Southend, for instance.

It is this shortsighted policy which has removed a number of routes which might by now be providing a useful service to a number of provincial towns, and has impaired other routes.

The Salisbury-Exeter route, for example, has been reduced largely to single track and its operational flexibility all but ruined: it would cost a fortune to make good the damage.

The rail network as a whole has a far greater value than the sum of its parts. It is important that, however owned, it should act as a single coherent part of the nation's transport infrastructure. Competition is only meaningful when a customer is offered a choice of carrier and conditions at the point of sale.

How are the recreated GWR, LMSR, SR, and LNER to compete with one another when the purposes which each serves are so different? One might as well try to compare two airlines operating in different parts of the world.

However, if the rail user could choose between services of, say, the LNER, recreated Virgin, BAA, Marks & Spencer, and others, running over the same route, then we have true competition. Mr Riffkin's decision to open the rail network to

Support role of merchant shipping

From Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin

Your leading article, "Whither Tydent" (January 30), suggests that the only believable deterrent to any nuclear threat to British security posed by countries such as Libya, Iraq, Pakistan or Ukraine would be that deployed to considerable success in the South Atlantic and the Gulf: a well-trained, well-led army and air force.

You will, however, recall that the troops were transported to the South Atlantic by the ships of the Royal and merchant navies while air defence and air support for the ground forces were provided by aircraft and helicopters of the Fleet Air Arm and the Royal Air Force.

In the Gulf ships of the Royal Navy enforced sanctions for the six months it took to transport to the theatre all the vehicles, ammunition and stores needed by the land and air forces before they could launch the offensive. Sea mines which might have prejudiced the timely build-up were cleared by Royal Navy mine counter-

measures forces. Fortunately Iraq's minelaying capability was limited to the local area and it had no submarines.

For both these campaigns command of the sea and the air above it — was essential and the vital resource, as in both world wars, was merchant shipping. More than twice as many merchant ships at warships provided the logistic support for the Falklands. Of the equipment required by the UK air and land forces in the Gulf, 86 per cent was transported by sea.

I am a strong proponent of the inter-dependence of the three services: you would expect no less from a former chief of defence staff. In any future military operation it is virtually certain that all three services will need to demonstrate again their ability to work together that is the envy of many — and we will need merchant ships.

Yours faithfully,
LEWIN,
House of Lords.
January 31.

Yours sincerely,
LAWRENCE MARSHALL,
50 (3F1) King's Road,
Portobello, Edinburgh 15.

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Portobello, Edinburgh 15.

Flying the right flag for Europe

From Mr Desmond Harney

Sir, As the Community is clearly with us and we with it, it is not time to give thought to re-designing that uninspiring flag whose principal virtue seems to be that, childlike, one can stick more stars on as new members appear? It is bloodless and boring.

Television graphics have had some better ideas: one had miniature national flags in place of the stars — far more interesting and colourful, and retaining at least some connection with the constituent national states (surely not to be extinguished entirely?). Another, more complex, had the stars still ranged around but with all the flags set in a mosaic in the centre.

Another thought would be to have each national flag set in the top left-hand corner, as the Union Jack is in the old Dominion flags, with a different version for each member state, just as the new Community passport has a different cover from country to country.

Yours faithfully,
DESMOND HARNEY,
16 Stafford Terrace, W8,
January 31.

Poll tax spending

From Councillor Graham Tope

Sir, In the continuing political debate about the unfairness of the poll tax, one aspect of the whole fiasco has gone virtually unreported — the arbitrary way in which the government has set spending levels and grants for some local authorities.

The government has set ceilings on Sutton's spending which forced us to cut £11.5 million from this year's budget, and next year we are having to save a further £8 million. On a budget of little more than £100 million, cuts of that proportion are nothing short of disastrous. Education and social services account for two thirds of our spending, and are inevitably having to bear the main impact.

If Sutton was one of the high-spending, prodigal authorities that Mr Heseltine so often criticises, there might just be some justification. But we spend £561 per head on our residents compared with £629 with our neighbour and very similar borough, Kingston-upon-Thames. In fact Sutton is the fourth lowest-spending borough in London. If we were allowed to spend the same as Kingston, we would have to make no cuts at all.

In addition, our government grant is one of the lowest in London — £486 per adult compared with £534 for Kingston. If we had the same grant as Kingston, we would receive £6 million more. Is Tory Kingston so different from Liberal Democrat Sutton? Perhaps Mr Major could explain to the poll tax payers in the borough where he was born and went to school how such inequality is creating a fair and just society.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM TOPE (Leader),
Sutton Council,
Civic Offices, St Nicholas Way,
Sutton, Surrey.

Origins of skiing

From Mr E. R. S. Fipoot

Sir, Support for the view that skis were introduced to the Alps from Norway (letter, January 27, February 1) is given by Henry T. Newton Cheshyre in his *Recollections of a Five Years' Residence in Norway* (London, 1861). What he calls snowshoes are clearly skis. "Flat pieces of wood... about ten feet six in length, and four inches in breadth, the ends turned up like skates". He says:

One of the Chamouni [sic] guides, who spent a winter in Norway, was quite charmed with the snowshoes: I saw him, on his return to his native land, bearing a whole heap of these articles and staves, and I have no doubt he introduced the use of them into Switzerland. Monsieur Belmont was rather clumsy with them at first; but ere this, I darest say he does Mont Blanc downwards in a couple of minutes on his Norse acquisitions.

Yours etc.,
E. R. S. FIPOOT,
Castle View, Bridge Street,
Bampton, Oxfordshire.

From Sir John Lawrence

Sir, If I may believe my own father, the late Sir Alexander Lawrence, he won the public schools skiing championship in Switzerland in 1891. The standard was not very high in those days. He said the only reason he won was that he was the only one who did not fall down during the course.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
JOHN LAWRENCE,
1 Naishes Cottages,
Northstoke, Bath, Avon.

All wrapped up

From Mr Alfred Qvist

Sir, Has the limit of absurdity in the use of cling film for packaging food been reached? It was applied, for the first time, in my experience, to coconuts, from Dominica, at my local supermarket recently. Is this the nadir in profligate and purposeless use of an environmentally unfriendly substance?

Yours faithfully,
ALFRED QVIST,
Chestnut Cottage,
Old Heathfield, Sussex.
January 31.

OBITUARIES

VICE-ADMIRAL SIR NORMAN DALTON

Vice-Admiral Sir Norman Dalton, KCB, OBE, Engineer-in-Chief of the Fleet, 1957-59, and Director-General of Training, 1959-60, died on January 27 aged 87. He was born on February 1, 1904.

NORMAN Dalton was probably the last engineering officer survivor of the original Fisher scheme of training, introduced at the beginning of the century, in which all officers were required (in Fisher's words) to have "some community of knowledge and a lifelong community of sentiment". But he remained loyal to that policy despite its abrogation by the Admiralty soon after the end of the first world war, in what came to be known as the "Great Betrayal" of the Fisher ideal. And he lived long enough to see it reintroduced in the context of the hard lessons learned in the second world war during which 20 years of Admiralty neglect of the engineering branch revealed embarrassing technical shortcomings when Royal Navy ships came to fight alongside their US counterparts in the vast expanses of the Pacific.

Dalton had valuable immersion in the air side of the Royal Navy and his experience of aircraft engineering in the post-war years made him convinced that the gas turbine would some day provide the main propulsion for warships (as Fisher had himself far-sightedly suggested to Sir Charles Parsons that they might, in the far-off days before the first world war). Dalton lived long enough to see his convictions bear fruit in the largely gas-turbine warship fleet which fought the battle for the Falklands in 1982, showing a mobility undreamed of during the years 1939-45 when the Royal Navy's ships were bedevilled by propulsion shortcomings and consequently had their endurance at sea greatly reduced.

Joining the Royal Navy in 1917,



Dalton volunteered for engineering duties and joined the battleship *Malaya* as a midshipman before doing his engineering training at Keyham. Subsequently, after some sea time in the aircraft carrier *Furious*, he went through the advanced engineering course at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich.

After a further period in the old coal-burning battleship *Benbow* he went to HMS *Rodney*, a new and potentially powerful battleship design unhappily emasculated as a result of the 1921 Washington naval

treaty and its limit of 35,000 tons on new battleships (a curb the Japanese and Germans subsequently defiantly ignored).

He had further valuable professional experience as a teaching appointment at Greenwich before being posted to London in 1939 as professional secretary to the naval engineer-in-chief. He helped in the transfer of the engineer-in-chief's department to Bath and subsequently played an important part as London liaison officer between the machinations of the (now rusticated)

department and the operations and plans division in London. His charm and professional knowledge did much to smooth the eternal tension between the need for serviceability in the fleet and operational requirements, as well as between the two divisions in London and the Bath machinery designers.

In 1944 he became engineer officer of the carrier HMS *Victorious*, serving in the East Indies and the Pacific during the last bloody and hard-fought months of the war against Japan. This final phase of the Pacific war was a tough time for the Royal Navy's engineers, who had to work overtime in hellish tropical conditions below decks to enable their obsolete propulsion machinery to give an adequate account of itself alongside the technically superior US Navy.

The enormous expansion of the Fleet Air Arm and its importance in fleet operations required that some of the best naval engineering brains should be applied to naval aircraft requirements — until then the poor relation of the RAF — and to the maintenance of aircraft serviceability at sea. After a conversion course Dalton became successively staff air engineer officer to the flag officer, flying training, followed by spells as assistant and deputy director of aircraft maintenance and repair.

Following this spell in the air world Dalton was appointed assistant engineer-in-chief with wide responsibilities for the officer and rating training of all technical personnel other than for the newly forming electrical branch. As chairman of the Dalton committee he reviewed and revised the whole concept of the training of (the then) naval engineers.

Promoted rear admiral in 1954, he became deputy engineer-in-chief, the following year, with wide responsibilities for the design of all propulsion and ancillary machinery and its operational serviceability at sea.

Here, his aircraft experience was invaluable; such innovations as the Ship Maintenance Authority owed much to his view that ships, like aircraft, needed a constant watch on their problems if maximum serviceability was to be achieved.

When he became Engineer-in-Chief of the Fleet in 1957 the winds of change were already blowing and a reversion to the Fisher concept of a general list of officers was already in its early and difficult infancy. Like his friend and predecessor, the late Vice-Admiral Sir Frank Mason, Dalton loyally accepted changes not universally approved by some of his subordinates and did much to bring calm to an often tempestuous period.

More change was to come and a year later the establishment of the Ship Department left him with no purely technical responsibilities and the navy with no-one directly responsible for optimum mobility. However, his talents were still in need and, while he remained as a sort of "tribal chief" of all mechanical engineers with the title of chief naval engineer officer, he became the first director-general of training of the whole navy.

There remained for him to give one last service to the navy, and perhaps it was the most important. He became the senior member of the specialisations steering committee, charged with implementing the already approved amalgamation of the engineering and electrical specialisations, which had not always in the past been the most cosy of bedfellows. He lived long enough to see the fruition of his labours in the creation of the weapon engineering branch and, too, to note its effectiveness in the Falklands battle and more recently in the Gulf.

Dalton married, in 1927, Teresa Elizabeth Jenkins. She died in 1982 and their son and daughter survive him.

APPRECIATIONS

Air Vice-Marshal Sir Edgar Lowe

I SERVED under "Neechi" Lowe (obituary, January 29) from the time of his return from France right through to the end of the Japanese war and my own demobilisation. We made many journeys together, particularly a long one through India and South Asia before the operations to regain Japanese-occupied territory in 1945 (cut short by the atomic bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki).

As a "chair-borne" wartime officer I may perhaps be allowed to touch on the tender relations between the general duties branch and the other branches. Neechi was the only non-GD officer I saw in action who was universally liked and trusted by all his general duties seniors (Porter, Hollingshurst, Slessor and many others). They knew he was absolutely straight and reliable, brilliant both in planning and in day to day administration.

Most notably, they regard-

ed him as their protector against "boffins", a breed of doubtful value who invaded Whitehall in droves in the 1940s.

Those who knew him will miss Neechi. He was a good man, a kind and understanding superior officer and an outstanding member of his



service. Had he been a general duties officer he would have risen to the very top. But he did not complain about that or anything else.

Robin Jasper

Rear-Admiral Grace Hopper

DURING a visit to America some 20 years ago I was privileged to attend a talk given by Grace Hopper (obituary, January 4) on the use and abuse of computing terminology. At the start of her talk, which was in a light-hearted vein, Grace produced a container of short lengths of wire, which was then emptied onto the table but, much to the chagrin of her audience, she proceeded to completely ignore.

At the end of the talk, by

which time everyone was bursting with curiosity, she held up a strand of the wire stating: "This is a nano-second," a remark that met with blank looks from her audience. With a twinkle in her eye she then told all of the delegates to take a piece of the wire and if ever asked to explain a nano-second our reply was to be that it was the time taken for electricity to pass from one end of the wire to the other.

Simple yet effective and I still have my piece of wire but am still awaiting the opportunity to use it.

D. Moore

GEN VERNON E. MEGEE

General Vernon E. Megee, one of the pioneers of close air support for ground forces, died on January 14 aged 91. He was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1900.

VERNON Megee was a US marine for 40 years, enlisting in 1919 and ending his career in 1959 as commanding general of the Fleet Marine Force in the Pacific. When he began, the Marine Air Corps hardly existed and he had to undergo his pilot training at navy aviation schools in San Diego and Pensacola and at an Army Air Corps school in Montgomery, Alabama.

In 1930 Megee was sent to Nicaragua to support the ruling regime against Sandinista rebels and suffered badly from enemy ground fire. It may have been his Nicaraguan experience which led him to help develop the technique of close ground support during the second world war, using radio signals from troops on the ground to direct air strikes against enemy positions.

He became the first com-

mander of a marine landing force air support control unit and commanded the air support units at Okinawa and Iwo Jima. During the second engagement he became known in the corps for his orders to the marine pilots: "Go in and scrape your bellies on the beach."

Megee took part in the Korean war as commander of the First Marine Aircraft Wing and among other decorations won the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star. He became the first aviator to serve as assistant commandant and chief of staff of the corps at its Washington headquarters, served on the staff of the War College and was director of intelligence for the joint chiefs of staff.

His education had been interrupted by enlistment, but Megee completed his undergraduate degree 30 years later. After retirement he went on to earn a master's degree from the University of Texas at Austin, and served as the first superintendent of the Marine Military Academy in Harlingen, Texas. He leaves a daughter.

GUSTAV NEIDLINGER

Gustav Neidlinger, German bass-baritone, has died at Bad Embs aged 81. He was born in Mainz on March 21, 1910.

WHEN Bayreuth reopened in 1950 Gustav Neidlinger immediately established himself as one of the foremost singers at the annual Wagner festival. He became the leading exponent of Alberich in the *Ring*, a role he subsequently sang in most of the main international houses as well as on both the Solti and Böhm recordings of the cycle. In his singing and acting he created a formidable opponent of Wotan, glowing in Alberich's new-found power when he has seized the gold and frightening in his curse when Wotan seizes the newly-fashioned ring from his grasp. Yet all was achieved without any recourse to what was once known as the Bayreuth Bark. Neidlinger remained true to Wagner's notes and to their musical projection.

The darkness of his voice encouraged opera houses to cast Neidlinger as a villain. He was impressive as an evil Klingsohr, a tormented Telramund, a posturing Pizarro, a saturnine Lysistrat in Weber's *Euryanthe*, and the equally malign Caspar in the same composer's *Der Freischütz*. Yet his real, jovial character emerged ruthlessly in the genial role of Kothner in *Die Meistersinger*, which he recorded under Rudolf Kempe.

After studying in Frankfurt

Neidlinger made his debut at the Mainz opera house. He was at the Hamburg Opera from 1934 to 1950 when he moved to the Stuttgart Opera. It was there that he really began to make his mark under the guidance of Wieland Wagner, who took him to Bayreuth. In 1956 he became a regular member of the ensemble at the Vienna State Opera.

Over the next 20 years he appeared in all the major houses in Europe. His career continued well into his own sixties and his New York debut at the Metropolitan Opera, inevitably as Alberich, came as late as 1973. His final appearances at Bayreuth were in 1975. Neidlinger first appeared in Britain with the Stuttgart ensemble during its visit to the Festival Hall in 1955, when he sang Pizarro. His Covent Garden debut was in 1963 as Telramund, followed by Alberich, at Solti's behest, in 1965. Although in later years he became known almost exclusively as a Wagnerian, in his early days he sang regularly in Mozart, Verdi and Strauss.

Neidlinger's voice was an imposing instrument with the granite strength of so many German singers of his generation. Ideally focused, it easily soared over a Wagnerian orchestra. His confrontations with the likes of Hans Hotter as Wotan were eagerly savoured by all Wagnerians.

He is survived by his wife, Liesel, a daughter and a son.

Margaret Jane Smyth, CBE, former matron of St Thomas's Hospital and president of the Royal College of Nursing, has died aged 94. She was born on September 23, 1907.

WITH the death of Margaret Jane Smyth, one of the last links with Florence Nightingale has been severed. She was the granddaughter of Sir Thomas Crawford, one of the original members of the Nightingale Fund Council, a body established to administer the monies subscribed by a grateful nation in thanks for the work of Florence Nightingale in the Crimean war.

She was matron of St Thomas's Hospital and superintendent of the Nightingale Training School (1945-55), chairman of the General Nursing Council (1955-60) and president of the Royal College of Nursing (1960-62). Her last public duty was to receive the Maundy Money from the Queen in Chichester Cathedral in 1985.

Margaret Smyth worked on the land in Somerset after leaving school but at the age of 20 took a course on health visiting and school nursing in Bristol. She followed this with midwifery training and a three-year course in maternity and child welfare before entering the Nightingale training school at St Thomas's Hospital. She did extremely well in her general training and was soon appointed as a children's ward

MARGARET SMYTH



Her high standards, quick thinking and sympathy for all concerned in the move ensured that others could face up to the many problems that arose. Margaret Smyth was shy and reserved but recognised the need to supply stability to those with whom she worked. Hydesville became a very happy community.

When the war ended she was recalled to London, this time to be matron of St Thomas's and superintendent of the Nightingale Training School. She was also involved in drafting a training course combining general nursing and health visiting which would meet with university and General Nursing Council approval. She was also instrumental in the establishment of a home for retired nurses at Gerrards Cross.

She was appointed OBE at the end of 1955 and advanced to CBE in 1959. In the 1960s she gradually gave up her work in London and retired to Chichester.

Margaret Smyth was a delightful hostess, maintaining an interest in the many members of her former staff who came to visit her, and delighted in seeing their children or grand-children. She worshipped regularly in the hospital chapel and subsequently in the parish churches where she lived. She enjoyed her garden and cat and worked for Chichester Cathedral as a doorkeeper and genuine "friend".

sister. For a short time she was in charge of "mothercraft", an out-patient department, followed by three years as matron of St Thomas's Babies Hospital.

In 1937 she was appointed principal of St Christopher's Nursery Training College in Tunbridge Wells, where she might have stayed, but with the war imminent she was recalled to St Thomas's as assistant matron. The wartime headquarters of St Thomas's was at Kingston upon Thames and she was

responsible for the nursing in a large area of Surrey and part of Hampshire. During the bombing of London she set an example of courage, common sense and compassion, often risking her life to help others.

In 1941, when St Thomas's had received many direct hits, the decision was made for the hospital to move its in-patients to a hushed hospital at Hydesville near Godalming, vacated by Australian troops, and Miss Smyth was appointed acting matron.

Ronald Hoar

Church seeking to achieve unity with diversity

Separation and secession seem to have become the order of the day. It began with the Eastern European countries, then the Soviet Socialist Republics took up the theme. In Yugoslavia it has flared into a bloody struggle. Now, even clerics suggest that Fundamentalists and Liberals in their churches should go their separate ways.

By contrast, we have recently had the Churches coming together in the newly-formed bodies for the separate countries within Great Britain, with the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland as an overall responsible body. We also have the coming of the single market in 1992 and it is in October each year that we celebrate the founding of the United Nations, with its great aim of holding nations of the world together in peaceful unity.

The United Nations Organization began in Central Hall, Westminster where the Methodist Church has some of its divisional offices and I dare to suggest that Methodism may have something to offer in the ongoing debate as to how independence and unity can go hand in hand. Next year the Church will celebrate the diamond jubilee of the union of its many different strands: which had separated from the original body during the years that followed the death of its founder, John Wesley. We shall also celebrate the

twentieth anniversary of the decision to admit women into the presbyteral ministry — the sort of decision that caused all kind of threats of secession among our fellow Christians.

Methodism itself has a very chequered secessionist history. The Rev John Wesley wanted nothing of separatism. He lived and died a member of the Church of England. His followers felt forced to organize themselves into a separate movement but it was not long before that movement experienced differences of opinion that splintered it. A fear that the new movement had quickly forgotten its roots; an urgency to take the Gospel message to those outside the Church rather than remain within the institution; an objection to strong central rule; a division of opinion about whether lay people should take authority or whether that should be left entirely to clergy, all brought separatist movements. At one time, there was a positive confusion of Methodist strands.

Thank goodness a move towards some kind of unity began during the nineteenth century and some of the smaller splinter groups came together in the United Methodist Church at the beginning of the next. This left three main streams of Methodism: the United, the Primitive, and the Wesleyan Methodist Churches.

These three united to form the present British Methodist Church in 1932.

But what a mixture! There were those who had a high sacramental view of ministry and those who regarded the minister as little more than a full-time layman. There was some tension as to how far people should be vested in a central authority and how far in the local church. Property, which had been erected at a phenomenal rate in a kind of competitive atmosphere, now needed rationalising. Then there was the place of women in the Church and in the ministry and for far too long, following union, it was considered that they should not be ministers but could be deaconesses.

Many of those tensions still exist but the Church holds together. Now and again it is threatened with the idea that there should be separatist movements: two strongly debated issues at the moment concern those who have varying views about human sexuality and those who feel that the Church is not doing enough for race relations. Thus we cannot afford to be smug or content but must continue to work hard at maintaining our unity and all the diversity within it.

The query comes as to how that unity has so far been maintained and it is possibly for five particular

reasons. The first is the sense of a common origin, that we all relate back to John Wesley and his emphasis on the need for "a warmed heart". This was Wesley's way of expressing his experience and belief that religion should be a vital thing and not just a case of observances.

The second is what might be called a "family ethos": the sense of belonging to one family wherever one might go throughout the country or, indeed, throughout the world, among the 50 million Methodist community. This ethos is partly created by the way in which ministers are moved to new "stations", every five years or so, thus linking different areas of the country through friendships which are formed. But it is the sense of being among more than friends: rather, sisters and brothers.

A third factor is that we have no tightly defined creedal base. We subscribe to the great Christian creeds and then emphasize aspects like the need for Christian fellowship, the importance of a devotional life and the fact that the Christian faith should be applied in every day life and practice. The fourth contribution to our sense of unity must be our organization, though at times, this can easily get in the way. The endeavour is to link all our churches together in a "connectional" system so that the Church can speak as a

whole and with authority from the centre. At the same time it is designed to give a certain freedom to those very same churches. It also links British Methodism to the Church throughout the world, maintaining an enriching two-way flow of information, exchanges and ideas.

The fifth aspect is, therefore, very important. We try to maintain a process of consultation in all the major decisions we make so that the Conference, the Church's governing body, has the views and resolutions of the local churches whenever decisions on our faith, order and policy have to be made.

Of course, some complain that we spend so much time in consultation that there are inbuilt channels to escape decision-making. The case is different. When the Church comes to a mind, all should feel that their views have been heard: and what a variety of experience and history we have on up! Wesley required of his followers that they should speak their piece both in his societies and in society at large. We were always a diverse people but it enriches our union.

The Rev Ronald Hoar is President of the Methodist Conference.

FEB 3 ON THIS DAY 1933

This was another highly successful stage partnership, between the two leading members of the cast in a play that ran for a year, a long time for a historical drama of that calibre. It was necessary to dig deep into the notice to find reference to John Gielgud, but it was worth the waiting.

NEW THEATRE "RICHARD OF BORDEAUX"

Richard II	John Gielgud
Anne of Bohemia	Owen Frangcon-Davies
Duke of Gloucester	Eric Stanley
Duke of Lancaster	Ben Webster
Sir Simon Burley	George Howe
Duke of York	Kinsey Fells
Michael de la Pole	H R Hignett
Earl of Arundel	Frederick Lloyd
Robert de Vere	Francis Lister
Mary Bohun	Margaret Webster
Agnes Launceston	Barbara Dillon
Henry, Earl of Derby	Henry Mollison
Thomas Mowbray	Donald Wolff
Sir John Montague	Walter Hudd
John Maudelyn	Richard Ainley
Edward, Earl of Rutland	Clement McCullin
Thomas Arundel	Reyner Barton
Doctor	Ralph Truman

In a performance of this play at the Arts Theatre some time ago its merits strongly appeared. Vigorous in movement in its dialogue, modern but without anachronistic flourishes; and in its search of human nature, watchful and diligent, it held its own as a piece for the theatre and as an interpretation of history. But it had then a defect that damaged it: the change in Richard was represented as a disintegration, the disintegration was attributed almost exclusively to the Queen's death, and the Queen herself was not made important enough to sustain so heavy a burden of dramatic motive.

By a shift of emphasis, this defect has been removed. The spiritual range of Miss Frangcon-Davies' distinguished portrait has been a little increased. At the same time the King's failure has been attributed less to the removal of her influence and more to other causes — to his weariness of the exercise of power, to a consequent rashness of judgment, and, above all, to the exhaustion of those

purposes, first of idealism, then of revenge, which have been the stimulus to his energy. Thus represented, the man is doubly interesting, and the story takes from him precisely that balance and steadiness which it previously lacked. The consequence is a historical and personal narrative which, though it is without the spark of genius that makes the breath away, is steadily persuasive and alive.

In a long cast, Mr Mollison's, Miss Frangcon-Davies', and Mr Eric Stanley's performances are to be particularly distinguished, and Mr Richard Ainley, after an opening that seemed a little too bright, gave an extremely moving study of the King's secretary, Mr Gielgud stands clear of them all. He has long had brilliant subtlety and sensitivity; it is now clear that prestige does not flatter, but enables him, as it enables all genuine artists, to discover new strength; he is acquiring the authority and presence that are the marks of a great actor.

Yeltsin returns to face a civil war

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

Throughout the world, airlines lost more than £2 billion last year, and although there has been some improvement in recent weeks, the average number of people carried fell to little more than 60 per cent.

FROM KEMAL DURU OF REUTER IN GORMEC, SOUTHEASTERN TURKEY

In Tunekpinar village, where 23 of their colleagues were pulled down from the sky on Saturday, a road wheel was also killed when another vehicle struck a road near Gecidi village in Hakkari province yesterday.

A Red Crescent team reached Gormec with 500 blankets, 100 tents and clothes for 250 people. American Blackhawk and Nighthawk helicopters flew in more supplies from Diyarbakir, where they had arrived from Incirlik in an American transport plane on Saturday.

Suleyman Demirel, the prime minister, cut short talks with world leaders in Switzerland, his first trip



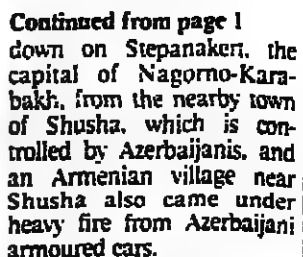
Continued from page 1

“If Labour were in office in the Eighties would history have been different? This craven and cringing approach to the Soviets was totally in contravention to the policies of the time and the necessity of us all to stand up against the Soviet Union, which was totally disintegrating by the weight of its own incompetence.” Mr Mellor said on TV.

Mr Patten recalled that Mr Kinnock had called Mrs Thatcher a nuclear-mad and had seen no difference in the threat posed by the United States and the USSR. His judgment had been proved wrong then, and might be wrong again.

● Peter Hain, Labour MP for North, last night demanded an enquiry into what he claimed was sinister tampering with MPs’ computers at the House of Commons.

● Peter Eddell, *Diary*, page 12



Old guard remembered: A woman carrying a picture of Lenin during a communist demonstration in Red Square in Moscow yesterday

Husein Sadikhov, the Azerbaijani foreign minister, said in Turkey yesterday that he would be prepared to meet his Armenian counterpart to discuss the worsening conflict, in which dozens of people are said to have died during the weekend.

The head of the enclave's foreign affairs committee, who returned to Moscow from the region last night said that he would urge senior Russian officials to do everything they could to force the Azerbaijanis to drop their determination to expel the 180,000 ethnic Armenians.

Mr Yeltsin will have to move carefully over the enclave dispute, which raises grave questions about the stability of the commonwealth of which it is one of the centres. The Armenian cause enjoys widespread support in Moscow, but the Russian leader will also be aware that any change in the enclave's status could set a precedent for the 16 "mini-republics" within Russia, which want greater autonomy.

Mr Yeltsin must also bear in mind that President Mutalibov of Azerbaijan is facing protests in Baku, the capital, from groups that want him to make an even tougher line against Armenia. Mr Mutalibov's replacement by Turkish nationalists or Muslim extremists would be unwelcome to Moscow.

Mr Yeltsin must resolve the border dispute between Russia and Ukraine over control of the Black Sea fleet. This conflict forced him to go to the Black Sea port of Novorossiysk last week just as the Middle East peace talks were taking place in Moscow.

The Russian leader will also have to tread a fine line over the economy. About 200 Russian nationalists demonstrated near the Kremlin yesterday to denounce Mr Yeltsin's economic reforms and in another protest a few hundred communists called for a return to the Soviet Union.

More than 2,000 activists of the Democratic Russia Movement and other liberal groups also gathered at the weekend and pledged to overcome their internal squabbles in the face of a mounting conservative threat. Groups from monarchists to socialists are hoping to make the most of the economic hardship

[illegible]

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?
By Philip Howard

VIC WARSHAWSKI
a. A Polish poet
b. A famous Indian linguist
c. A Chicago private detective

SIMON FORMAN
a. A Shakespearean astrologer
b. Translator of Herodotus
c. Writer of Horrors

ELIZABETH DRAPER
a. American divorcee
b. The original blue-sinking
c. Love of Sterne's

WILLIAM LILY
a. Poet friend of Oscar Wilde
b. Latin grammarian
c. Character in *Brideshead*

Revisited

Answers on Life & Times II

For the latest AA traffic and network information, 24 hours a day dial 0836 401 followed by appropriate code.

♣ PARKER ♣
DUOFOLD

**The solution of
Saturday's Prize
Puzzle No 18,830 will
appear next Saturday.
The 5 winners will
receive a Duofold
fountain pen supplied
by Parker**

17 Band involved in awful melee is to be executed (9).
18 "Let my due feet never fail to walk the _____ cloister's pale" (Milton) (8).
20 A simple catalogue (6).
21 RAF officer demanding entrance (7).
22 They come below the knees in neat youngsters (6).
24 Reason a nurse takes directions (5).
26 Trendy place to feed in (5).

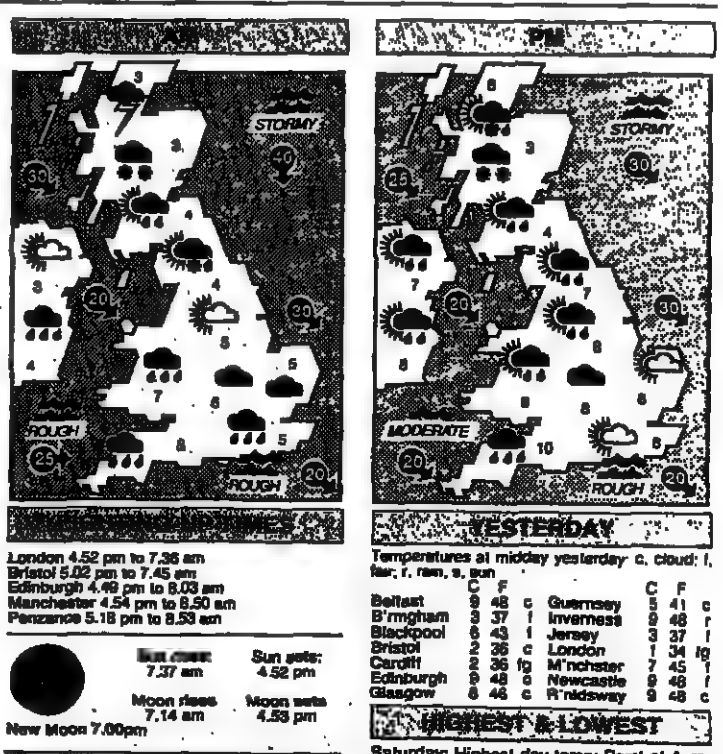
Southwest Wales and southwest England will have patchy rain. The rest of England and Wales and Northern Ireland will have sunny periods and showers, windy on high ground. Northern Ireland, northwest England, Wales and central England will become cloudy with rain, with snow on hills this evening. Scotland will be sunny with wintry showers and snow in the Highlands. Outlook: rain, after snow on hills in north; then drier and milder.

[illegible]

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
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Australia \$	2.445	2.296	Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Austria Sch	21.20	19.70	Dorset, Hants & IOW	703
Belgium F	56.00	56.00	Derby & Cornwall	704
Canada S	2.213	2.263	Wicks, Glouce, Avon, Some	705
Denmark Kr	11.68	10.52	Wicks, Bucks, Oxon	706
Finland Mk	8.36	7.75	Weds, Herts & Essex	707
France Fr	2.81	2.81	Went, North York, Cambs	708
Germany DM	354.00	324.00	West Mid & Sh Gwent	709
Greece Dr	14.50	19.00	Shrops, Herefords & Worcs	710
Hong Kong S	14.32	13.67	Central Midlands	711
Ireland P	2270.00	2130.00	East Midlands	712
Italy Lire	561.50	222.50	Lincs & Humberside	713
Japan Yen	2.91	2.91	Derby & Powys	714
Netherlands Gld	1.126	1.106	Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
Norway Kr	258.00	294.00	W. Englad	716
Portugal Esc	175.00	175.00	W & S Yorks & Daley	717
South Africa Rd	1.04	1.04	N England	718
Spain Pes	2.85	2.50	Cumbria & Lake District	719
Sweden Kr	10000.00	9200.00	W Scotland	720
Switzerland Fr	1.676	1.756	W Central Scotland	721
Turkey Lira			Edin & Fife, Lothian & Borders	722
Yugoslavia Dnr			Central Scotland	723
			Edin & Fife, Lothian & Borders	724
			Central Scotland	725
			Edin & Fife, Lothian & Borders	726
			Central Scotland	727
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			Central Scotland	739
			Edin & Fife, Lothian & Borders	740
			Central Scotland	741
			Edin & Fife, Lothian & Borders	742
			Central Scotland	743
			Edin & Fife, Lothian & Borders	744
			Central Scotland	745
			Edin & Fife, Lothian & Borders	746
			Central Scotland	747
			Edin & Fife, Lothian & Borders	748
			Central Scotland	749
			Edin & Fife, Lothian & Borders	750



MONDAY FEBRUARY 3 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

MAN OF THE WEEK

Knight finds his place in history

Sir Roland Smith will go down in history as the man who told Tiny Rowland to "get your tanks off my lawn" in the battle for House of Fraser. That apart, the large, lugubrious Mancunian with a ready sense of humour is best known for his role of chairman to many small- and medium-sized companies, such as Hepworth Ceramic and Senior Engineering. One of his flock, P and P, the beleaguered computer distribution company whose shares have collapsed from 147p to 40p in the past year, is due to report full-year figures on Thursday.

However had they are — and the market expects profits to have vanished compared with £15 million last year — it will be a pin prick to Sir Roland's ego after his ousting from British Aerospace in September.

His detractors say he was out of his depth, while those close to him believe he was simply unused to the internecine warfare of a large company linked to the government. One sage says: "He made the mistake of not appointing his own non-executive directors."

The son of a Manchester police sergeant, Sir Roland, aged 62, had never pretended to be anything else, living happily in a modest detached house on the



Sir Roland: thrifty outskirts of his home town. Despite earning substantial salaries over the years, he has a natural northern thrift, using public transport where helicopters prefer private.

For 22 years he was a professor of marketing at Manchester University, and he still prefers his academic title to his recent knighthood. He began his City career advising Unilever and RTZ while many of his students, such as Dr John White of BBA, have gone on to run successful companies. It says a lot about him that last year, a group of them threw a party in his honour.

His greatest love, apart from his wife, Joan, to whom he is devoted, is Manchester United Football Club where he is chairman. Seeing him in the directors' box at half time chatting to local businessmen, it is evident where his true affections lie.

JUDI BEVAN

Brittan to seek wider trade powers for Gatt

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

SIR Leon Brittan will today make a plea for global harmonisation of industrial competition rules under the aegis of a strengthened General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade world trade body.

The European competition commissioner, angered by the recent bilateral trade deal between America and Japan, and wary of governments' increasing resort to anti-dumping measures to prevent trade imbalances, believes the time is ripe to refashion Gatt into what it was originally meant to be — a true, all-embracing world trade body.

Addressing like-minded free traders at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Sir Leon is expected to call for the next Gatt round to include restrictive business practices and cartels on its

agenda. Sir Leon will outline a new Gatt code that would be incorporated into the national legislatures of all 100-odd members of the Geneva-based body. The code would make cartels and mergers in breach of its rules unenforceable in national law.

The commissioner's numerous tirades against President Bush's accomplishments in Japan, such as the bilateral car-industry deal, have coincided with growing signs of protectionism on both sides of the Atlantic.

While there is a groundswell of public opinion towards a "buy American" philosophy in the EC, Sir Leon looks to be fighting a losing battle against an industrial policy that could be boosted by an enlarged Community budget and used to promote Euro-champions across the

manufacturing spectrum. Just as sinister to Sir Leon has been the quiet growth in the dubious use of anti-dumping codes by governments around the world. Ideally, anti-dumping rules should stop products being dumped on foreign markets at knock-down prices, but they are easily misused.

The past decade has seen a burgeoning list of export products subjected to heavy tariffs — by the EC and America in particular — to stop them undercutting domestic producers, despite little evidence that they are being dumped in any way.

While Japanese and other eastern consumer electronics products have been hampered by European tariffs, other governments have taken slings to an increasing array of international targets, from Venezuelan cement to Norwegian salmon.

At the end of last year, there were 209 anti-dumping measures active in America, 143 in the EC and 71 in Canada. Sir Leon will argue today that international competition rules could reduce reliance on strong medicines, such as anti-dumping. An aide to Sir Leon said: "He's talking about turning what essentially is a defensive system into a preventative one."

When Gatt was founded in 1947, any competition policy it had quickly became lost as the cold war took root. Since then, Gatt's main approach has been to free trade by chipping away at import quotas and tariffs, and the body has enjoyed limited success.

Sir Leon will suggest that Gatt should return to its founding principles, and founding companies as well as governments, perhaps through an impartial panel that could take sanctions against countries whose companies broke the rules.

The speech may invite criticism of Sir Leon from a broad range — a fledgling world competition policy can easily be seen as the talk of an official getting too big for his boots. However, it is also timely, coming a week before Jacques Delors, the commission president, proposes to the European Parliament that the £46 billion EC budget should be doubled, in part to help accommodate a new industrial policy that would give EC firms huge new research and development funds. The British government fears such a policy could easily be skewed into covert protectionism and a twisting of EC competition rules.



Tietmeyer: rates decision

Money growth is German rates key

FROM ANATOLE KALETSKY IN DAVOS

LABOUR unrest in Germany is unlikely to lead to a further tightening of monetary policy because excessive growth of the money supply, not the state of the labour market, was the main reason for the increase in interest rates on December 19.

A slowdown in monetary growth, rather than any particular outcome of the pay bargaining, would be the key signal for any future easing of German interest rates, according to Hans Tietmeyer, deputy president of the Bundesbank.

He said that the controversial decision to raise interest rates by half a percentage point before Christmas was taken mainly because the Bundesbank council had seen preliminary money supply figures for December that showed unacceptably rapid monetary growth. When the figures were published after Christmas they revealed the key measure of broad money growing far above the official 5.5 per cent ceiling.

While the council also considered other factors in its decision, the money target was "our main indicator" and the overshooting money supply left the central bank with no choice.

In several statements at the World Economic Forum at Davos, Herr Tietmeyer de-

nied that the bank was directly trying to influence wage negotiations or that its tightening had been motivated by displeasure about the outcome of the Maastricht summit.

Herr Tietmeyer gave no hint of when he thought the money supply might return to its target range, but he suggested that the Bundesbank did not see the need for further tightening. Long-term interest rates had fallen after the rise in official interest rates, and short-term market rates were now below their level prior to the hike.

Commenting on the outcome at Maastricht, Herr Tietmeyer said the Bundesbank still believed that a monetary union could "only be a success on the basis of a political union".



Tietmeyer: rates decision

Mergers could lead to 'super union'

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

HEADS of the Amalgamated Engineering Union (AEU) and the EETPU electricians' union plan a "super union" with further mergers if their plans to combine are passed by members next month.

Gavin Laird, general secretary of the AEU, and Eric Hammond, his opposite number at the EETPU, said they would write to other unions in manufacturing as soon as an approval vote was

secured. They predicted a postal ballot result of "at least four to one" in favour.

The plan is to create a union with more than 1 million members "to counter the multi-nationals".

The general secretaries said they would be approaching the Engineering Employers Federation for national negotiating rights for a new white-collar section. The move will be seen as a challenge to the

MSF technical union, which dominates white-collar representation in manufacturing.

The Trades Union Congress wants an expansionary budget designed to create 500,000 jobs and provide extra places on training schemes. In its pre-budget submission to the Chancellor, the TUC also presses for a £2 billion investment plan for housing, schools, hospitals and transport infrastructure.

overpaid and shareholders have no idea how total compensation packages — which include basic salary and bonuses, share options, restricted share options and other forms of reward — are put together.

Based on performance of the corporations they led in 1990, Mr Crystal says the total compensation of the worst eight should have been cut by between 46 per cent and 97 per cent. The \$99.6 million paid jointly to Steven Ross and Nicholas J Nicholas as co-chief executives of Time Warner, the entertainment giant, should have been cut to a combined \$2.5 million; \$11.5 million paid to Rand Araskog, head of the conglomerate ITT, ought to have been \$2.7 million.

The pay of Martin Davis, Paramount film maker, should have dropped from \$4.6 million to \$1.5 million, that of IBM's John Akers from \$7.4 million to \$2.6 million. James Robinson, the chief of American Express, should have taken \$2.5 million out of the charge card group rather than \$4.9 million, and Lee

Iacocca of Chrysler would have been \$2.1 million poorer with a pay packet of \$2.4 million.

It is the pay of the big car bosses that has helped catapult the issue into the political arena. The salaries of the 21 corporate leaders — including Mr Robinson and Mr Iacocca, who accompanied President Bush on his recent trip to Japan — became the Achilles' heel of the trade mission.

The Japanese were able to lampoon the Americans on pay. The 21 leaders were paid an average \$3.4 million, six times that of their Japanese equivalents and 188 times the pay of most American workers. Comparable Japanese executives are paid between 10 and 20 times the shop-floor average.

Carl Levin, the Democrat senator who heads the Senate management committee, wants reform in a key part of executive pay — the share option, now the largest single part of the package. Often these are free gifts of shares that can be bought at prices far below the stock market value and cashed in at any time.

Knox casts net over Greek market

TOM KIDD



JIM Traynor (above), managing director of W&J Knox, a netmaker of Kilbirnie, Ayrshire, is putting skills learned in Scottish fish farming to work in the Mediterranean (Ross Tietman writes).

Aided by EC grants and support from their government, Greek fishermen are turning their hand to rearing bream and bass in captivity. Knox, which makes cages for salmon farming in Scottish lochs,

is engaged in a joint venture to provide packages of cages, nets, moorings, breakwaters and feedstuffs. This year, about 2,000 tonnes of caged fish is expected to be produced in Greek waters. Cephalonia Fisheries, which accounts for a fifth of total production, plans to double output by 1996 and other companies are expected to follow, creating a ready market for Knox.

BTG sale pressure mounts on Lilley

BY ROSS TIETMAN

INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

PETER Lilley, the trade secretary, is coming under growing pressure to scrap the news blackout established by Price Waterhouse, the government adviser, on the privatisation of the British Technology Group.

Although Price Waterhouse has largely succeeded in its news clampdown on the trust ports sale, imposed in the wake of the Tees & Hartlepool debacle, bidders for BTG have proved less easily intimidated. They are increasingly determined to give an airing to the ethical and commercial issues underlying the sale of the world's largest technology transfer group.

Research Corporation Technologies, the American group leading one of the three bidding groups, is expected today to give details of its consortium. RCT has appealed to Price Waterhouse to waive confidentiality clauses after being savaged by BTG managers who are also bidding.

Gordon Brown, Labour's industry spokesman, has called on Mr Lilley "to ensure transparency in the bidding process, so that parliament is informed which companies are remaining at each stage of the bidding process".

Ian Harvey, the chief executive of BTG, said: "I believe the bidding process should be open." Dr John Ashworth, director of the London School of Economics and chairman of the RCT consortium, said: "I don't see why there is not transparency in the bidding process at the moment."

Price Waterhouse has argued that the uncertainty of a secret bidding process is likely to maximise returns for the taxpayer. BTG believes the sale might turn into a farce if it is forced to open its expansion plans and portfolio of patents to the eyes of its largest competitor.

Lloyds 'unprofessional' over Forwell statement

BY NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

LOYDS Bank has admitted being guilty of "unprofessional behaviour" after it told staff at a construction company that their employer was bankrupt while it was still trying to draw up a rescue plan.

Receivers are expected today at Forwell Group, an office design and fitting company in Middlesbrough, after its shares were suspended on Friday. The company was forced to ask Lloyds to appoint receivers on Friday night after it failed to meet the bank's demand to repay all its £1.4 million debts.

Michael Wheller, Forwell's chairman, accuses Lloyds of destroying the company by refusing to support a refinancing package that would have repaid all the loans. Forwell's directors and the South Yorkshire Pensions Authority, the company's 16

per cent shareholder, are considering legal action against the bank.

Last week, Lloyds wrote to two of Forwell's employees claiming the company was bankrupt, even though it was still trying to arrange a rescue. A Lloyds spokeswoman said: "It was unprofessional behaviour and we have apologised to the customers and the company."

The receivership is likely to mean that Lloyds will be repaid in full but other creditors will receive little or nothing.

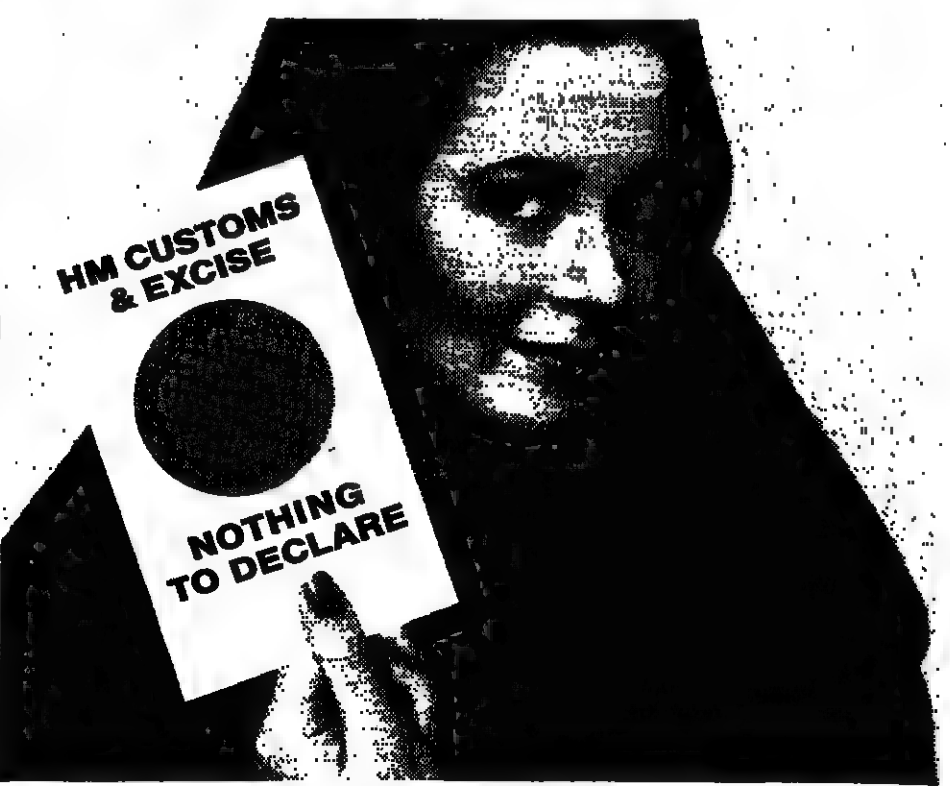
Forwell lost £1.1 million in 1990, but is believed to have broken even last year. The company needed refinancing but had reduced its debts from £3.7 million in the past year and had £2.2 million of work in hand. Mr Wheller said: "Lloyds could have provided us with working capital

and it would have been completely underwritten."

Forwell had arranged the sale of two properties to raise £1.7 million while South Yorkshire was prepared to offer a £300,000 bank guarantee. This would have repaid all the company's debt and provided working capital but Lloyds refused the plan.

Mr Wheller blames a personality clash between him and his bank manager for the dispute. He wrote to Sir Jeremy Morse, Lloyds chairman, last week but he refused to intervene.

Forwell gave Lloyds permission to discuss its finances with *The Times* but the bank said only: "The appointment of a receiver is always regrettable and comes only after extensive discussions between the bank and the customer exhausted every option."



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THE POUND

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German mark 2.8779 (+0.0105)
Exchange index 90.9 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1996.6 (+51.7)
FT-SE 100 2571.2 (+60.8)
New York Dow Jones 3223.39 (-9.39)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 2023.05 (+950.90)

***** RM

SMALLER COMPANIES

BZW puts laggards in the spotlight

THE smaller companies team at Barclays de Zoete Wedd has focused on the likely laggards of 1992, choosing those most likely to underperform this year.

There is no suggestion that any of these companies is unlikely to survive the year. Indeed, some constituents of BZW's class of '91 — including Etam, HP Bulmer, FR Group and Next — confounded the experts and substantially outperformed their sectors. But BZW's latest list bands together companies whose prospects are not good.

In the textiles sector the analysts single out *Alexandra Workwear*, which suffers from poor demand, high gearing and negative cash flow. *Jerome*, which needs to sell its electrical business to meet working capital requirements, and *Hollis Group*.

Likely underperformers in media and agencies, says BZW, are *HIV*, *Yorkshire TV* and *Anglia*, who face hefty franchise payments, and *WPP*, *Saatchi & Saatchi* and *Shandwick*, each handicapped by weak balance sheets. Laggards in print and packaging will include *HunterPrint*, still getting to grips with financial pressures, and *Watnough*, whose share performance may have run ahead of events. There will also be pressure on *Ferguson Industries*, *Delya* and *AFI*.

Transport's weak link is expected to be *Powell Diffrya*, whose high yield could be threatened by poor medium-term prospects. BZW expects the leisure sector as a whole to outperform after two years of struggle but highlights the difficulties faced by *Buckingham International*, because of high debts, poor trading overseas and delays with disposals.

JS Pathology is tipped to underperform the booming health and household sector because of links with the Middle East where resources have been diverted to rebuilding. *Bransford* and *Bridson* could be excluded from a recovery in the engineering sector.

Plexions and *Trinicon* are two to avoid in motors because of poor recovery prospects. *King & Shansson* and *Harvey & Thompson* have little to commend them in the financial sector while *Eurotherm*, which outperformed other electronics companies by 45 per cent last year, may pause for consolidation.

MARTIN BARROW

BCCI global fund publication delay worries creditors

BY NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

DEPOSITORS of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International are becoming increasingly nervous about the continuing delays over publication of details of a \$3 billion worldwide compensation scheme.

Touche Ross, the bank's liquidators, said in the High

Court the scheme would be revealed by the end of January, but sources now suggest nothing will be released for at least another two weeks.

Solicitors for Touche and the Abu Dhabi government, BCCI's 77 per cent shareholder, are said to be finalising the documents al-

though the principal elements were fixed months ago. While the agreement is still confidential, it is clear the terms are not as generous as first thought.

Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan, the ruler of Abu Dhabi, is believed to have offered to inject up to \$2.2 billion into a global fund to compensate BCCI's 800,000 depositors. He is also ready to write off about \$2 billion of claims he has against the bank. However, the offers are not unconditional, as first believed. As part of the deal, Touche has offered to write off \$4.4 billion in promissory notes, payable over the next seven years, which the Abu Dhabi government gave to BCCI as part of its restructuring early last year.

BCCI was closed last July by the Bank of England after it discovered widespread fraud. Since then, Touche has uncovered that the bank, including concealed Treasury losses, unrecorded deposits and bad debts, has slashed the bank's assets more than 90 per cent to only \$1.1 billion. The cash injection and the realisation of BCCI's remaining assets would allow the liquidators to repay creditors 33 per cent of their losses.

Brian Smouha, the partner from Touche who has led the negotiations, is effectively trying to swap long-term assets for an immediate cash injection. The global fund would allow Touche to pay a 10 per cent dividend to depositors later this year, while depositors could wait until next century for any payout in a standard liquidation.

The failure of the global agreement could also lead to protracted and expensive litigation as depositors tried to win priority over the bank's ravaged funds. They could still turn down the offer, in the hope that they may recoup more in a longer-term operation.

Straight crockery, page 10

CBI rejects draft for pan-European consumer rules

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

THE Confederation of British Industry (CBI) has attacked a European Commission consumer-protection draft as "a lawyers and litigants' paradise", leading to rising insurance costs and a less competitive economy.

The EC consumer law services directive, aimed at cutting abuse by service providers, forms part of a plan for a pan-European consumer-protection framework. The directive, if implemented in its current form, would affect all service providers, except for medical services and the construction sector.

Judith Vincent, head of the CBI law group, said: "If an employee walks into the office and slips over, the cleaners could be required to prove it was not due to any negligence on their part. Similarly, if there is a car accident when the car has just been to the garage, the garage would have to prove that it carried out its repairs correctly." She

wants the commission to take into account business costs and to introduce minimum and maximum claims limits.

The directive underlines an attempt by the commission to establish a single market for the services industry throughout Europe. Different legal practices could in some cases result in service providers emigrating to regions with the least onerous regulatory and legal framework.

Miss Vincent said: "That suppliers have in effect to prove themselves innocent is a heavy burden, not compatible with the British law of negligence, and in some cases it may be impossible."

The CBI believes liability for services should not be treated in the same way as that for physical products, because "products are distributed widely from the point of production to parties with no contact with the supplier, whereas services are the subject of a contractual relationship between the supplier and the end-user".

Hill Samuel advises Greece

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

HILL Samuel Bank, TSB's merchant banking arm, has been appointed as the Greek government's financial adviser to a metropolitan railway project in northern Greece.

The merchant bank fought off substantial international competition to advise the

Greeks on the upcoming metro service in Salonika, which is the country's second largest city and a big commercial centre. The project will involve a railway through the commercial centre of Salonika, estimated to cost 60 billion drachmas (£177 million).

Achilleas Karamanlis, the Greek environment, town planning and public works

minister, expects that an international consortium to undertake the project will be selected by the end of this year.

The Salonika scheme is one of a number under consideration by the Greek government, so Hill Samuel will also be hoping to play a significant role in its implementation.



Talks continue: a deal is still being finalised between the sheikh and Touche

New capital raising falls 70%

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

THE huge overhang of uninvested venture capital funds resulted in new capital raising by independent venture capital firms falling 70 per cent from £850 million to £250 million last year.

The venture capital industry, which provides equity funding for unquoted companies, had funds available for investment of £1.8 billion at the start of 1991. This is sufficient for more than three years' investment over the past four years. Investment opportunities in the unquoted sector have become much scarcer as smaller companies have concentrated on survival rather than expansion.

Adrian Beecroft, chairman of the British Venture Capital Association, said: "Given the liquidity of independent venture capital funds, it is hardly surprising that very few firms attempted to raise capital in 1991."

The independent venture capital industry, which excludes 31 and captive venture capital funds, trailed the City for huge amounts of capital during the Eighties.

Think-tank backs minimum wage

BY COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE introduction of a minimum wage in Britain would cause no overall loss of jobs and, in the long term, could have a positive impact on employment, according to the latest study by the Institute for Public Policy Research, the left-of-centre think-tank.

Frank Wilkinson, senior research officer in applied economics at Cambridge University and author of the report, challenges critics of the minimum wage concept, including government ministers, who argue that it would add to wage bills and reduce employment. The Labour party has proposed minimum pay of £3.40 an hour as part of statutory measure to protect wages.

Mr Wilkinson says the minimum Labour has called for would not only benefit an estimated 4.5 million employees, but would also float 300,000 people off the means-tested benefits and penal marginal tax rates, provide greater incentives for those on benefit to enter work, and encourage firms to rely more on product and process development. He also sees it saving the Exchequer

£300 million, as well as the estimated £2 billion of extra revenue from higher income tax receipts and national insurance contributions.

The study notes that Britain is the only European Community country without a minimum wage and that the most successful European economies have long had a minimum wage and employment regulation. The report argues that low pay does not make British firms more competitive, but discourages training, innovation and higher quality.

Mr Wilkinson says that instead of low pay curbing unemployment in Britain since the late Seventies, the evidence points to high unemployment being required to force people to accept low-paid jobs. He sees the main effect of a legal minimum wage being spread thinly over a wide range of consumer products and services, making it unlikely that there would be any significant change in relative prices.

□ Why Britain Needs a Minimum Wage, By Frank Wilkinson, IPPR, 30-32 Southampton Street, WC2. Price: £5.

O'Reilly looks at Mirror

Tony O'Reilly, head of the Heinz food combine and owner of Independent Newspapers in Ireland, has expressed interest in buying Mirror Group Newspapers. He has talked to his merchant bank, Charterhouse, about an approach for the *Daily Mirror* publisher.

The administrators have taken the 51 per cent stake held by private Maxwell companies off the market until uncertainties over the financial position are resolved.

Mark Sebba, of Charterhouse, said yesterday Dr O'Reilly had not put together a formal bid. He is insisting on a thorough examination of the group's financial position, particularly the pension fund's £350 million loss.

Reshape plan

McInerney Properties, the Irish property company, has admitted it finished 1991 with negative shareholders' funds. Financial restructuring proposals should be put to shareholders before the end of March.

Back to black

Increased rentals helped Palmerton Holdings, the property group, to return to the black with a pre-tax interim profit of £476,137 (£2,740 loss) to end-September. An interim dividend of 0.5p (1.65p) is recommended.

Embassy falls

Embassy Property Group, the USM company, has written down the value of some properties by £6.6 million. It reports an annual pre-tax loss of £9.5 million (£1.3 million profit) to end-March. There is no dividend (5p).

EMH loss

European Motor Holdings, the motor retail group formerly known as Cargo Control, lost £735,000 in the six months to end-September (£2.72 million lost in the previous 15 months).

Jobs saved

More than half the jobs at Company of Designers, the USM building design consultancy that called in the receivers in January, have been saved after successful "going concern" sales by the receiver.

IMI contract

IMI, the engineering products group, has won a contract worth more than \$10 million to provide computer software to the US Army Reserves and National Guard.

Office chief

Robert Noonan, the former chief executive of Marler Estates, is to become chairman and chief executive of Office and Electronic Machines, after buying 14 per cent.

Yield trends predict good catch for the early bird

AFTER registering good returns last year, the gilt market looks set for an even better time in 1992. Long yields are heading down to 8 per cent.

Are there risks? Of course — that is why the market is not there already. It takes a long time to persuade markets that a radical change in the fundamentals has taken place. Nor is this surprising, for it is only with the benefit of hindsight that the fundamental trends are crystal clear. At the time, each minor reversal can seem like a shift of trend.

In early 1982, for example, the proximate factor holding back the market (before the Falklands war) was the rapid growth of money supply. Having been led to believe excessive monetary growth was the source of all evil, it was difficult to wean the market off its regular monetary feed. But as inflation continued to fall despite rapid monetary growth, this happened.

The comparable bogeyman now is the PSBR. The government has lambasted us for so long with the need for restraint on public borrowing, and the market has grown so used to a falling stock of gilts, that it seems hard to swallow

the idea of a PSBR above £20 billion — accompanied by a bull market. But as large volumes of stock come to be absorbed fairly easily, perceptions will have to change. The Budget will provide a test, for, in our view, the Chancellor can (and should) cut taxes by £4 billion, taking the PSBR, on our estimates, to £22 billion (although he may be able to forecast a lower number).

A more immediate inhibiting factor is the impending general election. In 1983 and 1987 the market seemed to have decided the Conservatives would win long before the event. Indeed, both times the market fell after the result. This time the markets must have been in a quandary; only now are they beginning to sense an outright Conservative victory. Thus the market may be driven higher by the political factor alone, perhaps continuing after the election. A clear Tory victory would probably boost sterling (and equities) as well as gilts, as international investors made portfolio decisions in favour of sterling assets, thereby enhancing base rate prospects, while also helping to keep down inflation.

There has been some legit-

mate economic concern in the market. After all, inflation is now back to 4½ per cent and the rate of increase in average earnings has been stuck at 7½ per cent. Yet the underlying picture is much more positive and inflation should fall to about 3½ per cent by year-end.

Clearly, the market has also been worried by developments in Germany, which are now reaching crisis point. Slowing demand, weak commodity and oil prices, and low manufactured import prices all point to lower inflation. Some time soon the market will take a clear view on whether, as in the British case in 1990, inflation, wage increases and labour market stress all peak late in the economic cycle, before easing sharply, or whether they are set to remain obstinately high for a good while. Our money is on the former.

The upshot is that several factors that have held back the market are soon due for resolution. The Budget cuts taxes by £4 billion, taking the PSBR to £22 billion for the coming year, but the gilt market does not budge, while the voters and foreign exchange markets like it. Base rates come down by half a percentage point. The Conservatives win the election, inflation continues to fall and wage settlements tumble. The end of the German crisis hovers into view. The result is that not only does the gilt market enjoy a marked bull run, but it is concentrated in the first half of the year. Those who wait until all the uncertainties are resolved will miss the boat. It is, after all, the early bird that catches the worm.

ROGER BOOTLE
Greenwell Montagu

Securiguard profits likely to climb 20%

TODAY

THE Securiguard Group, chaired by Alan Baldwin, is expected to unveil a healthy 20 per cent advance in annual results. Pre-tax profits are forecast to rise to £4.7 million (£3.9 million), according to UBS Phillips & Drew. Earnings per share of 15.4p (14p) and a maintained dividend of 8p are expected.

Good progress is anticipated at Securiguard's main security and cleaning businesses. However, a disappointing performance is likely in the personnel and communications operations.

John Menzies, the Edinburgh newsgroup chain, is expected to announce first-half pre-tax profits of £5.5 million, according to County NatWest WoodMac. This compares with profits of £200,000, although last year's figures were affected by a £4 million exceptional provision at the Hammicks book wholesaling business.

County's forecast is at the top end of market expectations that range from £2.2 million to £5.5 million. A dividend of 3.8p (3.4p) is predicted.

Interims: Black (Peter) Holdings, CRT Group, Marzies (John), Season Holdings, West Trust, Finales: Graton Lodge & Knight, Drayton Far Eastern Trust, Fleming, Claverhouse Investment Trust, Ramsden's (Harry), Securiguard Group, Updown Investment Co.

Economic statistics: None announced.

TOMORROW

Interims: Helton Holdings, Heritage, Finales: Fyffes, Printech International, Economic statistics: UK official reserves (January).



Rise predicted: Alan Baldwin of Securiguard

WEDNESDAY

Interims: British Thomson Holdings, East German Investment Trust, Hambro Currency Fund, Finales: None announced.

Economic statistics: Overseas travel and tourism (November); advance energy statistics (December); housing starts and completions (December); details of employment, unemployment, earnings, prices and other indicators.

THURSDAY

P&P, the computer distribution group, has suffered as the price war among the personal computer manufacturers continued. Personal computer prices are thought to have declined by about 30 per cent as manufacturers scrambled to maintain their market share.

P&P's shares halved last

October after the company issued a warning that it was unlikely to make any profit in the traditionally stronger second half. UBS Phillips & Drew has pencilled in final pre-tax profits of £1 million, compared with £13.1 million last time. A maintained dividend of 4.25p is forecast.

Interims: Jersey Phoenix Trust, Trans-Natal Coal Corporation, Finales: P&P.

Economic statistics: Cyclical indicators for the UK economy (January — first estimate).

FRIDAY

Interims: Independent Investment Co, Finales: Scottish American Investment Company, Economic statistics: Insolvency statistics (fourth quarter).

PHILIP PANGALOS

Corporate bonds shine through American gloom

TIMES have rarely been tougher for American industry. Last year American corporations' profits were hit by deep recession and massive restructuring, not to mention the confidence-sapping effects of war. It comes as some surprise, then, to learn that American corporate bonds offered the best returns of any fixed-interest asset class in the American market in 1991. The return on the corporate bond index was 17.4 per cent, compared with 15.38 per cent for the Treasury index and 14.01 per cent for the mortgage index.

A team from Kidder Peabody is currently in London to convince a sceptical City investment audience that US corporate bonds are going to repeat or even improve on this performance in the current year. At the core of the argument is the claim that corporate bonds have historically outperformed Treasury securities during post-recession periods as investors' fear of credit risk diminishes. So far in this recession, this seems to have been the case as spreads have declined since the start of 1991. The trend during the current recession has been more marked than usual because even risk, that great bogey of corporate bond investors, was all but eliminated by the collapse of the junk bond market.

Improved liquidity also bodes well for the corporate bond market. This has partly come about through a significant increase in new issues, which reached a record \$450 billion last year and is forecast by Kidder to pass the \$500 billion barrier this year. Already in January there has

been a massive \$28 billion of new issues. This huge supply of new bonds has combined with technical factors and a shift in the shape of the yield curve to increase the depth and liquidity of the market to record levels.

However, investors need to be careful. More than perhaps any other mainstream fixed-income category, the corporate bond market remains fraught with hidden risks. One of the most potentially damaging is a change to the American accounting standard on treatment of pensioners' medical costs. From January 1 these have had to be capitalised on company balance sheets and either written off as a lump sum, or amortised over 20 years. For many companies the exposure is small, but for others the implications for balance sheet ratios or for earnings are alarming. Another factor of increasing importance is exposure to product or environmental liability claims, which are not always disclosed as fully as they should be.

Finally, Kidder advises investors to be aware of lavish devotion to the highest rated credits on the simple grounds that historically it is the AA- and A-rated corporations that have suffered the most downgradings.

With this proviso, Kidder is adamant that US corporate bonds "should outperform" in the current year. It will be fascinating to see how British institutions, which are reluctant investors in British corporate bonds, let alone those of foreign companies, respond to the message.

JONATHAN PRYNN

THE TIMES

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مكتبة من الكتب

Election blight reaches the City

From the state of the stock market, investors might judge that the traditional blight of election uncertainty was just one of those myths brokers trot out to explain otherwise mystifying share price movements. After falling right through the autumn, when opinion polls were against the government and a November election was a real option, the FT-SE 100 share index has climbed 9 per cent since mid-December, recovering most of the losses since its August peak. Only hindsight will be able to judge if that includes an uncertainty discount or whether the delayed recovery on both sides of the Atlantic would in any case have led to an autumn correction.

Since the autumn, two things have changed. The government's opinion poll ratings greatly improved as its propaganda machine got into full swing. At the same time, brokers and commentators who looked at the implications of a Labour victory, or even a hung parliament, generally concluded that the macroeconomic impact might be less than catastrophic. That must be reassuring to the many money-movers whose working lives have not yet encompassed a change of government. Rightly or wrongly, the prospect of sharply higher government borrowing, which is also likely to feature in Norman Lamont's Budget plans, barely seems to warrant a raised eyebrow, though it would have roused horror in bankers' parlours less than three years ago.

At the micro level, only privatised utility stocks have really suffered political damage. Even there, the deprivatisations of regulators may be more significant for some than the impact of a change of government, which might reduce the risk of radical regulatory change at British Gas or National Power. As the election approaches, however, uncertainty is affecting business activity. Leading housebuilders have been hoping for an election since last summer, convinced that confidence will not return to the market until it is out of the way. That may have some real basis, for instance in the tax calculations of more affluent home-buyers wondering what they will be able to afford and made cautious by the tide of repossession and forced sales. Psychology is probably more important. At least potential homebuyers have the counter-attraction of the temporary waiving of stamp duty. Companies contemplating capital investment have an additional incentive to hold back in Labour's plans for more generous capital allowances, not knowing what the *quid pro quo* might be in the basic corporation tax rate.

In the City, there are more clear-cut worries. Neither companies nor banks and big investors want to become embroiled in transactions that might span an election. The early Budget presents few worries, but the most favoured election date is now April 9 — only 66 days away. That virtually rules out new takeover bids depending on large-scale underwriting of shares, since a takeover bid is now usually reckoned to last the full 60 days allowed by the takeover panel after a formal offer document is sent. Fund managers may be happy to hold shares, but there is no point in multiplying that risk over an election period for the modest returns expected from underwriting. The window of opportunity for rights issues is also closing fast. Last autumn's appetite for new share issues choked on British Aerospace and a series of cases where fund managers felt companies were joining the bandwagon for no good reason. From now on, rights issues are likely to require the sort of heavy discount that only those in real need are likely to contemplate.

Paradoxically, this election blight on corporate activity could help sustain the shares of companies immune from political change — at least until the next "shock" opinion poll.

State of the union shows a need for alternative to Reaganomics

Anatole Kaletsky believes that the Nineties may yet turn out to be the American decade

Ten years ago, I arrived in America as Washington correspondent of the *Financial Times*. America was at the lowest point of its worst recession for 50 years. The country was still smarting from its humiliation by Ayatollah Khomeini when Poland was crushed by martial law. Communism was in the ascendant round the world and had arrived on America's doorstep in Nicaragua.

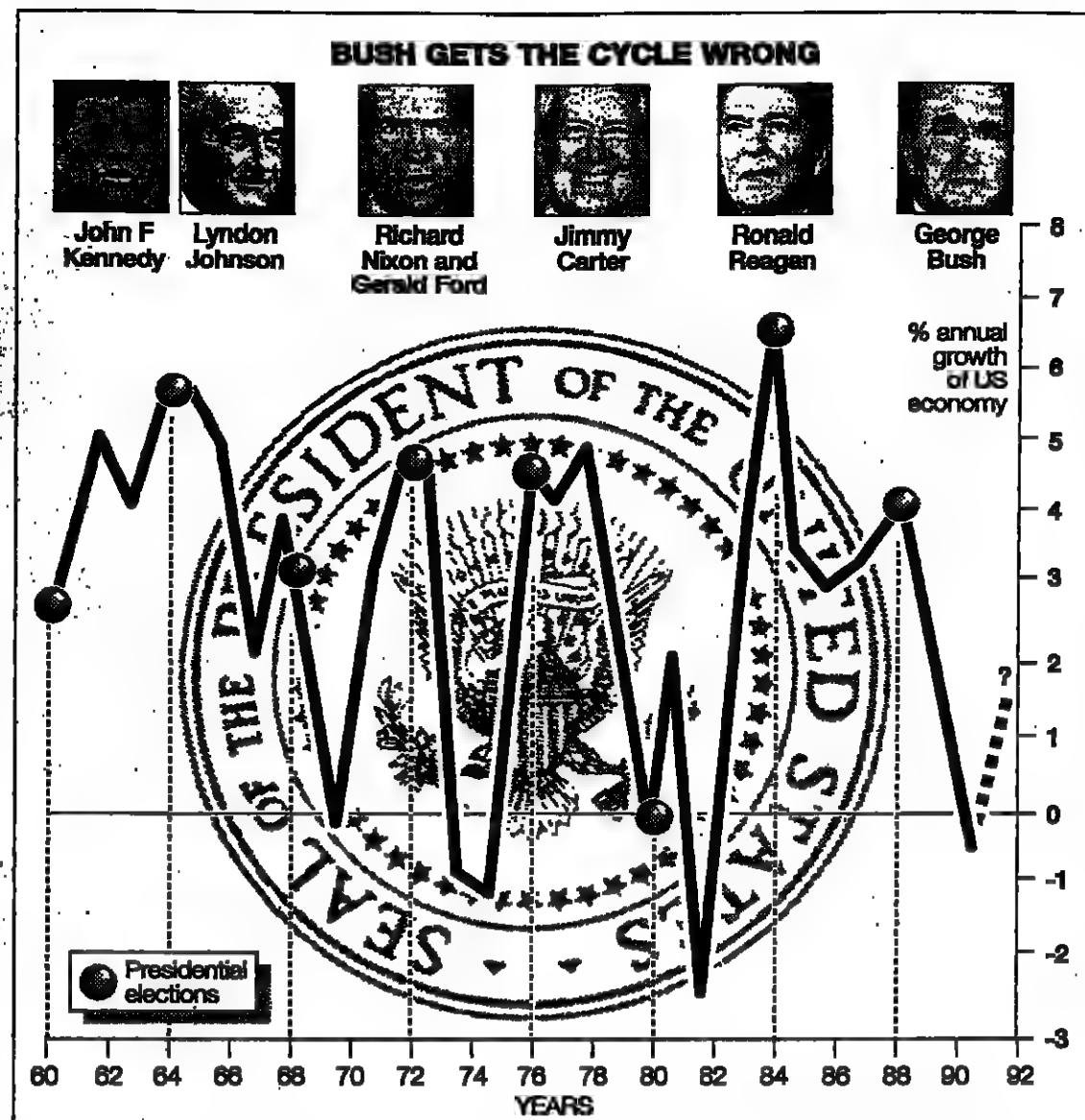
Five presidents in a row had failed to serve the usual two terms in office and the new Hollywood president seemed destined to follow his forebears into history's footnotes. Having narrowly survived an assassination attempt, President Reagan found his popularity plunging with the economy to new lows.

Against this appalling background, Mr Reagan delivered his State of the Union message after a year in office. He boasted that America had learned once again to "stand tall" in the world. His economic advisers promised that the economy would come "roaring back". Mr Reagan was ridiculed by the international intelligentsia for his schmalzy slogans, but he enjoyed the last laugh. For Mr Reagan had the measure of America's mood.

In 1982, America was not the distraught, self-questioning nation that I had expected. It was brimming over with pride. Americans had no time for anyone who told them of their loss of global dominance, of Japan's managerial and technical superiority or the higher living standards and more secure societies enjoyed by many Europeans.

Ten years later, America has won the cold war. It has enjoyed a period of uninterrupted growth never before matched in peacetime. The American recession, unlike the one in Britain, has been among the shallowest and shortest on record. Yet when President Bush presented his sober State of the Union message last week, he described a country in a state of nervousness and despair. Americans resented Mr Bush's plans to revive the economy with the penulthood of spoiled children. They grabbed the huge lollipops — like the \$5,000 cash handout for first-time homebuyers — then, without drawing breath, resumed their cries of "more more more".

Why does America demand ever more extravagant gestures from Mr Bush to show that "he cares" about a recession that may be over already? Because, like a spoiled child, it feels insecure. The cold war may have been won and the GDP may have stopped falling, but for the first time since the Great Depression, Americans feel like losers. What, then, has



broken America's spirit? Some explanations seemed far-fetched.

At the World Economic Forum in Davos this weekend, for example, Wayne Angell, the Federal Reserve governor, was still blaming the inflationary policies of the Seventies. Richard Breen, the chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, attributed the economic malaise partly to a high capital gains tax, which encouraged companies to replace equity with debt.

Jean-Claude Paye, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's secretary general, spread his net even wider. To explain the lack of confidence that has spread from America around the globe, he came up with four possible reasons: the breakup of the Soviet Union; the growth of protectionist pressure; the spread of Islamic fundamentalism; and (believe it or not) global warming. An incredulous American journalist translated M Paye's last thesis for his hometown readers: "It's too hot to shop."

Yet, to anyone who lived in America through most of the Eighties, the explanation seems clear enough. American workers' real wages have fallen almost continuously since the mid-Seventies and are now no

higher than they were in 1969. This record of stagnation is unmatched in any country outside Africa, Latin America and the former communist bloc. The real mystery is not why Americans have now woken up to their economy's underperformance, but why they were so over-confident in the past ten years.

America's self-esteem has always been based on material advancement. The country has not been bound together by a common history, an ethnic identity or a language, but by an ideological vision. America is the City on the Hill, the symbol of the entire world's hopes of prosperity and freedom, the ultimate destination of all human progress.

The contradiction between this glowing vision, which remains at the heart of all American education, politics and popular culture, and the economic underachievement of the past 20 years naturally led to the psychological denial of the Reagan era. Americans were not prepared to face the truth about their stagnating economy and Mr Reagan gave them some excellent excuses.

He cut Americans' taxes, so they imagined they were doing material-

ly better. He encouraged an overvalued dollar, which made foreign goods cheaper for consumers. He deregulated the financial system, allowing families and companies to raise their living standards (or dividends) by borrowing even if they could not earn enough to pay the bills. But all these were obviously temporary distractions.

The theory behind Reaganomics held that extra borrowing — by the government, consumers, companies and the nation as a whole through the balance of payments — was only an interim measure. It would tide the country over until the benefits of lower taxes and other "supply side" measures came through.

In retrospect, supply side economics, at least as it was applied in America and to a lesser extent in Britain, turned out to be a hoax. Record budget deficits stimulated demand and pulled America out of deep recession. The economy did come "roaring back" from 1983, just as Mr Reagan had promised. But as a way of raising productivity and improving the allocation of resources lower taxes, financial deregulation, cuts in public services and the other nostrums of supply side economics were a failure. To

take one example, untrammelled financial deregulation did not redirect investment to more productive uses as the supply siders predicted. Instead, it financed unneeded office blocks, raised earnings and employment to unsustainable heights among financiers, realtors, architects and corporate lawyers, bankrupted hundreds of businesses caught up in the mania for leveraged buyouts and mergers, and forced thousands of others to sacrifice their long-term investment plans on the altar of "maximising shareholder values".

None of this proves that financial deregulation and the rest of the supply side policies were necessarily damaging, only that they went too far, or were mismanaged or introduced too fast. But the experience does suggest that the conventional assessment of American economic policy in the Eighties should be exactly inverted. In managing short-term macroeconomic fluctuations, the Keynesian demand side of Reaganomics was (and still is) broadly successful, but in improving the economy's long-term productive potential, many of the supply side reforms were ineffective at best.

For the international economic policy establishment, these findings are hard to accept. Organisations like the OECD have spent the past decade preaching to Europe about the need to emulate the labour markets, social and financial policies of America's supply side. At the same time, they have warned America to follow "prudent, stability oriented" macroeconomic policies like those of the Germans and other Europeans.

In the present recession, the scales have fallen from American eyes. They have realised that Reaganomics failed to restore the growth of their living standards and productivity and they need a new economic philosophy, but their leaders have no idea where to turn. This is why the psychological devastation has been out of all proportion to the depth of the economic downturn. It is also why America's future may now be more hopeful than at any time in the past 20 years. At last Americans are debating some of the economic and social handicaps that separate them from the rest of the world: the inefficiency of a health system financed by private insurance; the impact of education on productivity growth; the prodigious costs of litigation; the choice between a welfare safety net provided by the government and one offered by crime.

Nobody yet knows how to deal with these and many other problems, but throughout its existence America has proved uniquely capable of rising to every challenge, largely because of its openness to new ideas and people from round the world. As America finally confronts its economic and social failures, the despair will turn into energy and enthusiasm. When it does, Europe and even Japan had better watch out. The Nineties may yet turn out to be the American decade.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Back to a future

SIMON Thorp, former head of gilts trading at Salomon Brothers, has timed his return to the market admirably well. Two weeks after he quit his old post, it has emerged he is to take up an equivalent position at NatWest Gilts, part of NatWest treasury and capital markets which has grown steadily in the last couple of years. But to the envy of his past and future colleagues, he leaves tomorrow with his wife on a month-long trip to Australia, thus guaranteeing a tan when he returns to the City early in March. "The gilts division has begun to be turned around and is set to become far stronger," says Thorp, aged 33, who began his career as a blue button with Akroyd & Smithers, now part of SG Warburg Securities, and switched to Salomons in 1988. He will be working under Keith Wiley, overall head of the gilts section. Salomons, meanwhile, have appointed two of Thorp's former team-mates, Andrew Duthie and Robie Uniacke, to pick up where he left off.

Winter's discontent

MARTIN Winter, a senior venture capital manager at Biddle & Co, the law firm, and the prospective Conservative candidate for the marginal south London seat of Tooting, has clashed with the board of Bass, the brewing giant. He is alarmed by talk that Charrington, a Bass subsidiary, is thinking of re-opening the Balham Hotel in his would-be constituency. It has been closed since police raided the premises last Nov-



"Used to belong to a software pirate"

ember. He said as much to Ian Prosser, Bass chairman and chief executive, at the company's recent annual meeting and was assured that local opinion would be taken into account. "My basic point was that the overwhelming strength of public opinion could not be ignored and that it was in the commercial interest of Bass not to reopen," says Winter, aged 37, who, as a solicitor, is more likely to be found sitting with the board at a company meeting than firing hostile questions from the audience. Politics and the law aside, he has found time for an unusual new pursuit — waterski jumping.

Everyone's a winner

PAUL Winner, PR consultant and marketing adviser, is set to do for the world of art what his cousin, Michael, has done for Britain's film industry. Winner, who is marketing adviser to the Confederation of British Industry, is known for his habit of sketching wherever he goes. Now, some of his work has found its

way into Harrods, where an exhibition of sketches and paintings of London theatres opens today. Guests at the launch will include Neville Shulman, a showbiz accountant and old friend, who made headlines over Christmas when he climbed Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Kenya back to back in aid of Music for the World, a charity founded by Winner, whose artistic talent goes back to his days as a law student at Oxford where contemporaries included a highly ambitious Michael Heseltine. "It was while he was president of the Students' Union that he told me he intended to be prime minister," says Winner, aged 57, who set up the first student exchanges between Oxford and Moscow.

What a corker

EL VINO, the legendary Fleet Street watering hole, is knocking out premier cru Montheilie red burgundy at an unbelievable £1.95 a bottle against the usual £8.75. One problem — the wine has gone off. "We discovered it was going over the top, so thought we'd better try and sell it," said a spokesman, who added it is great for cooking or making mulled wine. "We suggest you drink it quickly."

Pole positions

POLISH cabbies have been quick to grasp the potential of free trade. Dozens have written to East Midlands Electricity, offering to plaster adverts all over their taxis. EME, somewhat bemused by the approaches, is writing back to the budding entrepreneurs, politely declining the offer as it is unable to direct current so far east.

JON ASHWORTH

Lloyd's committed to growth in insurance

From Mr Nicholas Doak

Sir, Once more Lloyd's is the subject of media comment and letters to editors prescribing cures for its ills. Fair enough but, once more amidst it all, a tired old stick is raised to beat us down. I refer to the canard which is usually expressed as: "In 1900 Lloyd's had half the world's non-life insurance, today it has less than 2 per cent"; although Mr Dinkel's variation on this (Letters, January 24) asserts we had "45 per cent earlier this century".

There are no accurate records for 1900 for either Lloyd's or the world's corporate insurers. Using what figures are available, it appears

that Lloyd's share of British non-life premiums in 1900 was about 14 per cent. There were also substantial insurance industries in Japan, the USA and Europe, so our 1900 world share must have been less.

Whatever our share in 1900, the largest growth in world non-life premiums since then has been for motor vehicle and other personal lines insurances which barely existed at the turn of the century.

These classes are overwhelmingly written by a country's indigenous insurers, not by international providers such as Lloyd's. Any apparent loss of market share

has been influenced more by this change in market shape than by lack of effort by Lloyd's.

Irrespective of past or present market share, in accepting the report of the task force, the chairman of Lloyd's committed the society to a course for growth in premiums and profits. As the report reassures, insurance enjoys a higher growth rate than developed countries' GDP and the society has every intention of sharing this.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS DOAK
(Manager, Media Relations,
Public Affairs Department,
Lloyd's of London,
1 Lime Street, EC3.)

The cruel reality of the last cufflink

From Mr H.H. Marcus

Sir, May I join issue with Mr P.A. English who wrote an excellent letter published in your columns (January 28). It is said that Lloyd's has done much to alleviate the position of names. But, unfortunately, it has only made promises for the future to stem the flood of resignations and to make Lloyd's more attractive to brave new future generations.

All that has been promised is not to make them bankrupt and not to eject them from their private dwelling house, as long as it is a modest one.

What we are trying to achieve is exactly what is happening. It is only a matter of degree.

The fact that there are stop loss policies and that the errors and omissions policy insurers may be involved will help, but Mr English and many of the defenders of the present system seem to ignore the fact that a great deal has been wrong at Lloyd's and

that many underwriters have failed in the standard of efficiency and competence names are entitled to expect.

We all realise that losses have to be paid.

We only wish to avoid the disasters and cataclysmic effects on our lives. We have always talked about the last cufflink, but few of us realised the cruel reality of this dictum.

The troubles at Lloyd's cannot be swept under the carpet.

The action groups will continue and litigation will become a daily feature, and only a resolved and determined intervention by Lloyd's Council will be able to prevent this and not only help the names now being so badly affected but also safeguard the future of this once great institution.

Yours truly,
H.H. MARCUS,
4 Regency Terrace,
SW7.

Judges defended

From Mr Ralph Instone

Sir, Mr D.J. Taylor (Business Letters, January 30) ascribes the limited effect of Section 312 of the Companies Act 1985 to "the judicial interpretation of what constitutes compensation for loss of office".

In fact, Section 316(3) (dating from the 1948 Act) exempts from the scope of Section 312 any bona fide payment by way of damages for breach of contract, and also any pension, superannuation gratuity or similar payment.

The result is that hardly any such payment requires shareholders' sanction. This may be unsatisfactory, but it is not the fault of the judges.

Yours faithfully,
RALPH INSTONE,
7 New Square,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2.

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From Mr H.D.R. Doble

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I remain, Sir, Yours faithfully,
H.D.R. DOBLE
(Managing Director,
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Queens Walk,
Reading, RG1 3EH, Berkshire.

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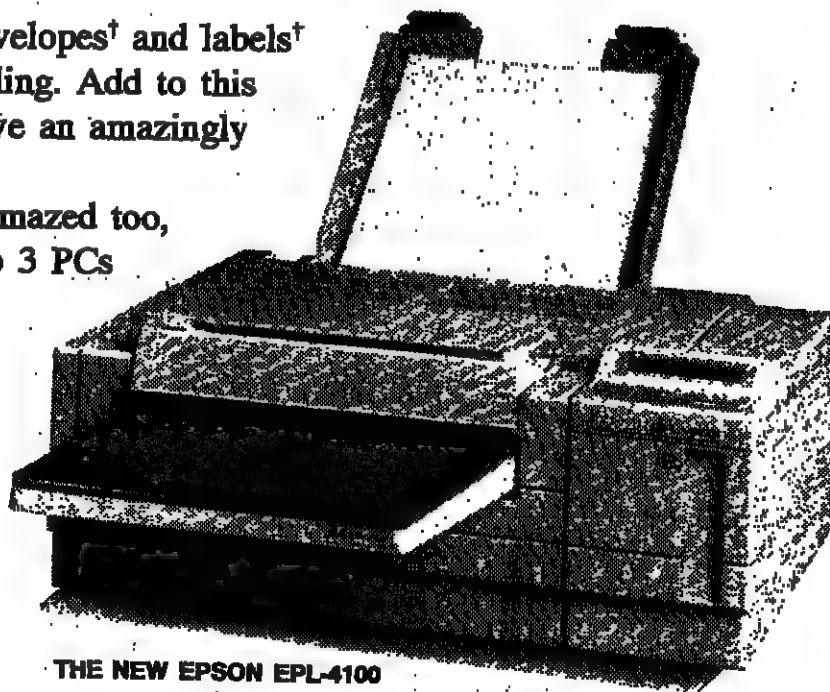
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9	Shoreditch	Electrical	1
10	Nat West	Banking	1
11	Butterworth	Drugs	1
12	Blackwell	Books	1
13	Baird (Wm)	Industrial	1
14	Huntley & Palmer	Food	1
15	Coca-Cola	Food	1
16	British Ind	Building	1
17	Boo (Henry)	Building	1
18	Worthington	Chemicals	1
19	Leeds	Chemicals	1
20	Tate & Lyle	Food	1
21	Chambers	Industrial	1
22	Albion	Banking	1
23	Westpac	Banking	1
24	Handmade	Food	1
25	Debenhams	Retail	1
26	CRH	Building	1
27	Nat West	Banking	1
28	Granada	Industrial	1
29	Blue Circle	Building	1
30	Glyndwr	Industrial	1
31	Creston	Industrial	1
32	Electrocomp	Electrical	1
33	Amec	Building	1
34	Powell Duffryn	Transport	1
35	Island Foods	Food	1
36	Son & New	Retail	1
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Capitalisation, week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began January 27. Dealings end Friday, 8 Contango day February 10. Settlement day February 17. Forward margins are permitted on two day business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is re-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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Captain overcomes crisis of confidence to push New Zealand to brink of Test match defeat

Gooch leads England from front

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN AUCKLAND

IT WAS early in 1979, 13 years ago, when England last won four successive Test matches and, coincidentally, when New Zealand last lost a home series. Graham Gooch and his side were last night on the brink of updating a lot of history.

The Auckland Test, played on an accident black spot of a pitch, slipped into its fifth day barely alive. New Zealand still required 180 runs, more realistically, England needed the two remaining wickets for an impregnable 2-0 lead, with only Thursday's final Test in Wellington to come.

Ted Dexter, who arrives here later this week in his role as chairman of the England committee, was the last England captain to be in such a happy position in New Zealand. His 1963 touring side won all three Tests: since then, England had managed only three wins from 16 Tests here, until Gooch set about restoring his facility for getting the best out of the most unpromising scenarios.

Winning, he will often repeat, is a habit, and the cliché does not alter the truth of it. Not since Mike Brearley have England had such a prolific winner in charge and, when Brearley led the side to victory in the last three Tests of the 1978-9 Australian tour, and the first of the following summer against India, Gooch was ever-present, a young man learning at the maestro's shoulder.

Gooch has consistently derided the notion that this Test series could in any sense be belittled as merely a warm-up for the World Cup. Now, he has proved his point, masterminding England's command of two very different matches.

The win in Christchurch was based on stamina, on gradually breaking down the solid baton door of an unresponsive pitch and then piling spectacularly through. Here at Eden Park, the bowlers have been befriended by conditions from first ball to last, and England had to emphasise their superiority by recovering from a dreadful start.

Typically, it was Gooch himself who put New Zealand out of the game with a century that may not have

been one of his most memorable, but was certainly among his most resolute. Nobody in the game had scored a fifty when he went in to open England's second innings on Saturday and, for more than an hour, nothing seemed likely to change.

Stewart and Hick went cheaply, while Gooch, for the first time on tour, was playing like a man short of confidence rather than just short of runs. Morrison beat him time and again outside the off stump, his feet were not working properly, and his bat was not coming down straight. Geoffrey Boycott, to whom Gooch turns so often for technical advice, described him as "nervy and anxious".

His first 50 took three hours. He had faced 133 balls, exactly 100 more than Allan Lamb required for his thrilling half-century, high on risk but calculating in its counter-attacking. By the time Lamb left, Gooch was himself again, dismissing the bad balls with certainty. The two hours between lunch and tea produced 138 runs, and crushed New Zealand's spirit.

Gooch, having gone from 50 to 100 in little more than an hour, was run out by an over-eager Reeve before the close, and yesterday morning England lost their last four wickets for two runs in consecutive overs.

Enough happened during this flurry of activity to reassure Gooch that the pitch had not suddenly developed a conscience. The thrust of its malice had altered, however, for, while the ball was no longer deviating sideways so ex-



Lamb: calculated risk

aggerately, it had now developed a crazy variation in bounce which was a danger to body and stumps.

The notional target of 383, in a minimum 167 overs, looked even more remote for New Zealand when, even before lunch, the scoreboard read seven for three.

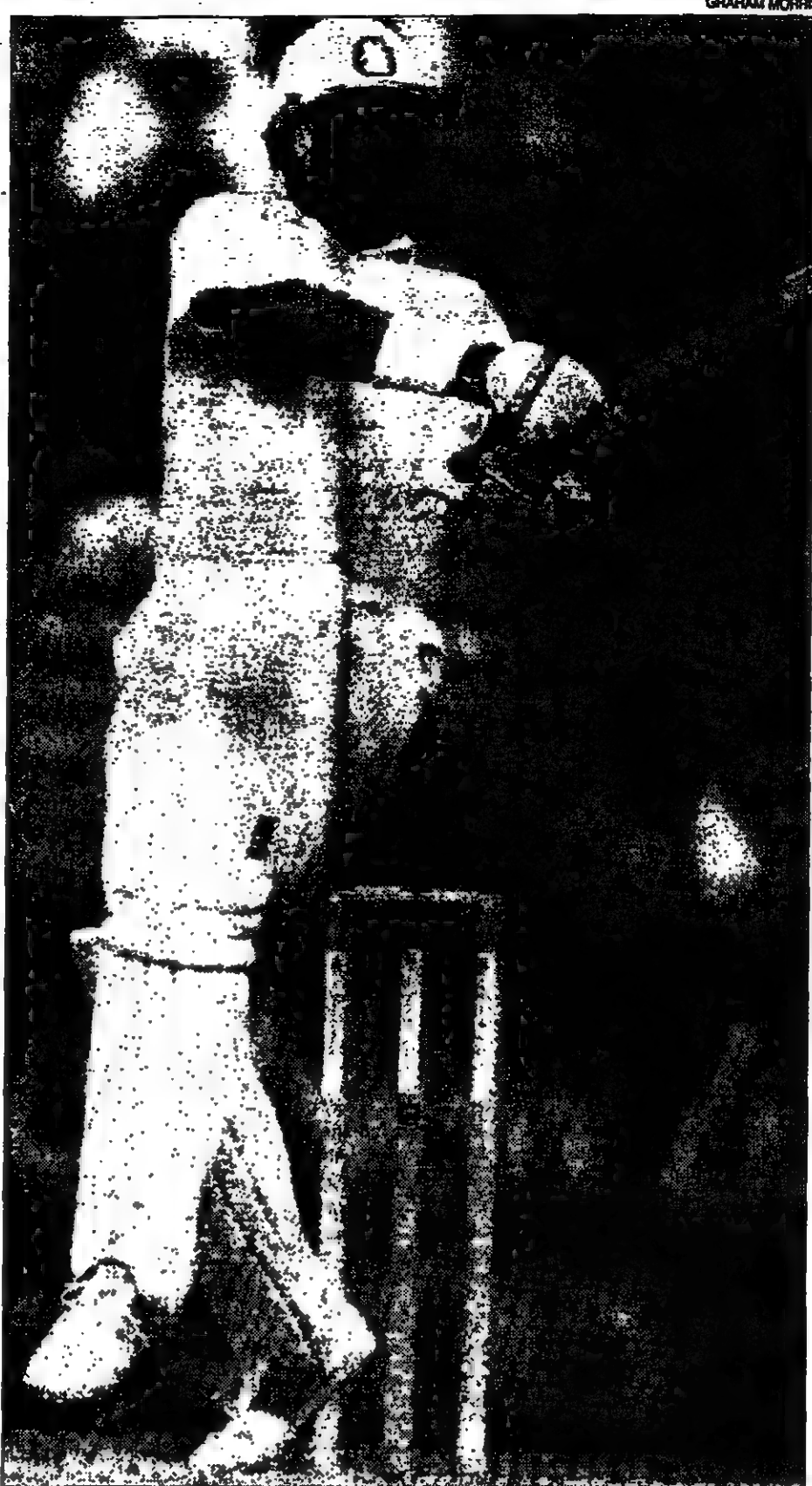
Harland and Wright had both gone for nought, so five wickets had now fallen without a run being scored. This has previously occurred only once in a Test match: small consolation to Harland, who was completing a pair, or Wright, who left with a tortured expression after being leg-before to one which hit him no higher than the shin.

Jones went in a similar way, though this time the ball did not rise above his ankle, and when DeFreitas, who had taken two of the wickets, began after lunch with an over which included two fast bowlers and one which flew viciously from a length, the odds were not long against New Zealand surrendering before tea.

They were helped by just about the one thing Gooch seems unable to do at present, which is to hold a catch. He put down Rutherford off DeFreitas at third slip, his second miss of the match and his seventh of the tour. The fourth-wicket stand survived a further ten overs, and had added 70 before Rutherford was finally out to Pringle.

Pave was down at tea, Tutnell snaring Patel with a slower ball, and Crowe's brave 56, made at some cost to his body, ended with the second ball afterwards. It was another which took off unpleasantly, flicking the shoulder of the bat on its way to slip.

But after bowling much better than in the first innings, DeFreitas lapsed into bad old ways before the close. Cairns and Parore had gone down fighting, but England had ten overs at the ninth-wicket pair of Su'a and Morrison. DeFreitas and Lewis wasted a number of them with some senseless short-pitched bowling and Gooch, again declining to use Reeve, employed spin at both ends as Su'a, unexpectedly stylish, deprived England of a day off.



Pulling power: Gooch hits Cairns to the boundary on the way to his century

SCOREBOARD FROM EDEN PARK, AUCKLAND

New Zealand won toss

ENGLAND: First Innings 203 (D R Pringle 41; C L Cairns 6 for 52).

Second Innings

	114	2	15	294	220
G A Gooch run out (Watson)					
Thrown out by bowler					
A J Stewart c Parore b Su'a	8	1	50	31	
Glancing down leg side					
G A Hick b Su'a	4	1	9	5	
Beaten by bowling					
R A Smith b Morrison	85	7	84	45	
Played on, cutting					
A J Lamb c Watson b Patel	60	1	10	72	47
Drove to leg-off					
D A Reeve b W Watson	26	1	130	112	
Trapped half-forward					
G C Lewis run out (Parore)	23	3	106	88	
Mar-up over second run					
T R C Russell c Harland b Cairns	24	4	85	49	
Fence to gully					
D R Pringle b Cairns	8	1	10	7	
Beaten playing half-forward					
P A J DeFreitas c Wright b Morrison	0	1	12	5	
Drove to mid-off					
P O R Tutnell not out	0	1	8	5	
Extras (b 5, lb 16, nb 2)	28				
Total (141min, 68.4 overs)	227				

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-23 (Stewart), 2-33 (Hick), 3-49 (Smith), 4-182 (Lamb), 5-263 (Gooch), 6-299 (Reeve), 7-319 (Russell), 8-321 (Lewis), 9-321 (Lewis), 10-321 (DeFreitas).

BOWLING: Morrison 21.4-68-2 (1 nb), 3-37-0, 2-4-0, 4-2-17-1, 4-1-20-0, 6-4-18-1; Cairns 18.4-62-2 (2 nb), 2-17-0, 6-1-39-0, 1-1-4-0, 6-2-24-2; Watson 25-10-26-1 (1 nb), 7-1-24-0, 5-1-20-0, 2-1-3-0, 12-7-12-1; Su'a 10-4-32-2 (5-2-16-2, 2-7-0, 3-1-20-0); Patel 22-7-43-1 (one spell).

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings

	0	4	14	14
B R Harland b Lewis				
Beaten on back foot				
J G Wright b Pringle	15	1	80	72
Played on, pushing forward				
A H Jones c Smith b DeFreitas	14	2	65	40
Got long leg to cover				
M D Crowe c Hick b Lewis	48	6	135	113
Edged to second slip				
K R Rutherford c Russell b DeFreitas	26	4	84	72
Beaten by bowling				
D N Patel b Lewis	24	5	60	36
Beaten playing half-forward				
C L Cairns c Hick b Tutnell	1	1	6	9
Caught at cover via silly point's boot				
T A C Parore b Pringle	0	1	9	2
Playing no shot				
M L Su'a not out	0	1	23	13
D K Morrison b Lewis	0	1	1	1
Beaten playing half-forward				
W Watson b Lewis	2	1	16	18
Not in line				
Extras (b 1, lb 19)	15			
Total (258min, 65 overs)	142			

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-13 (Harland), 2-35 (Jones), 3-61 (Rutherford), 4-102 (Morrison), 5-123 (Wright), 6-124 (Cairns), 7-139 (Parore), 8-139 (Patel), 9-139 (Crowe), 10-142 (Watson).

BOWLING: DeFreitas 16.2-53-2 (2 nb), 6-2-10-0, 5-0-15-1, 5-0-28-1; Lewis 21-7-31-5 (nb), 6-2-14-1, 10-4-15-1, 3-1-2-3; Pringle 15-7-21-2 (7-3-12-0, 6-4-8-0; Reeve 7-1-21-0 (one spell); Tutnell 4-2-16-1 (one spell).



On the run: Kapil Dev cannot prevent Boon from scoring another boundary

odds are stacked against them.

It was not, as expected, Kapil Dev who entered the record books yesterday by taking his 400th Test wicket (he got stuck on 399), but Srikanth, who did so by holding five catches in Australia's innings. No fielder, as distinct from wicketkeeper, has taken more in a Test innings, and only Victor Richardson, Yajurvindra Singh and Asharuddin had more. Srikanth took three at short leg, one at silly mid-off and the last at short mid-wicket. Yajurvindra were all at short leg off the Indian

have had in the field was soon more than cancelled out when they batted. For two hours the engaging Srikanth bore a charmed life until his unimpeachable mistimed hook went to hand. Jones's catch followed, then another at slip to get rid of Veng-saruz, and the fifth of the match as the wicket when Asharuddin threw his bat at something short, high and wide. But if ever there was as good an 18-year-old as Tendulkar, he, too, must have been a prodigy.

AUSTRALIA: First Innings
M A Taylor c Srikanth b Kapil Dev 2
W N Phillips c More b Pringle 2
D G Boon c Srikanth b Pringle 107
A R Border c Srikanth b Kapil Dev 59
D M Jones c Srikanth b Pringle 29
T M Moody c Vengsaruz b Pringle 37
N A Healy c More b Srikanth 28
S R Tendulkar not out 57
P R McCreath c More b Pringle 9
C J McDermott c Srikanth b Pringle 31
M R Watson not out 30
Extras (b 1, lb 7, nb 12) 29
Total (131min, 57.4 overs) 346

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10, 2-21, 3-128, 4-145, 5-222, 6-254, 7-290, 8-303, 9-330.
BOWLING: Kapil Dev (11 nb) 40-18-103-2; Pringle (1 nb) 22-55-101-2; Smith 25-4-62-2; Tendulkar 5-2-6-0; Reilly 25-6-26-1.

INDIA: First Innings
S R Tendulkar c Boon b McDermott 34
M Srinivas c Healy b Hughes 6
S V Manjrekar c Jones b Hughes 57
S R Tendulkar not out 57
P R McCreath c More b Pringle 9
C J McDermott c Srikanth b Pringle 31
M R Watson not out 30
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C J McDermott c Srikanth b Pringle 31
M R Watson not out 30
Extras (b 1, lb 7, nb 12) 29
Total (131min, 57.4 overs) 346

Umpires: T Price and A R Cullen.

RACING

Chirkpar 16-1 for Champion after shock win

FROM OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT IN DUBLIN

CHIRKPAP'S Champion Hurdle odds were dramatically cut from 50-1 to 16-1 by William Hill after his shock victory in the Paschal Butler Champion Hurdle at Leopardstown on Saturday.

But those who have already invested in Morley Street repeating last year's Cheltenham success need not despair. He was on the wrong end of a short-head decision, but four plausible excuses were offered on his behalf.

Firstly, it was his first race since November, secondly, he had been deprived of an important piece of homework, thirdly, he went the long way round to challenge and, finally, he found himself in front a shade early when Minorettes Girl made her only mistake at the final flight.

Michael Jackson, Morley Street's owner, said afterwards: "He may go straight to Cheltenham, but should Toby Balding and myself decide to run him again, it will be at either Newbury or Warwick."

This was the second successive year that Jim Bolger has upset a strong British challenge in this race. Bolger, recovering from a severe bout of influenza, confirmed that Chirkpar would go straight to Cheltenham for the Champion Hurdle, which is sponsored by the winning owner, Michael Smurfit.

"We had thought that two miles would be a little short for him," he said. "But this has proved that if with a good pace, he will not be troubled. Happily, the going at Cheltenham will not affect him as he acts on anything."

Minorettes Girl showed that she has made a good recovery from a throat infection, and she enters the Champion Hurdle betting at 25-1.

She is, however, not a certain runner as her trainer, Paddy Mullins, will also enter her for the Stayers' Hurdle.

BIG-RACE RESULT

Going: good to yielding
2.15 PASCHAL BUTLER CHAMPION HURDLE (H20 250 2m)
1. CHIRKPAP (J. P. Cusack, 20-1); 2. Morley Street (J. Frost, 6-11 fav); 3. Minorettes Girl (M. Pym, 16-1); ALSO RAN: 7.2. Desmet, 9. Royal Dera, 10. Ruling (4th), 16. Crowded House (5th), 20. Capote Lad, 21. Salsburgh (6th), 22. 2m, 23. 2m, 24. 2m, 25. 2m, 26. 2m, 27. 2m, 28. 2m, 29. 2m, 30. 2m, 31. 2m, 32. 2m, 33. 2m, 34. 2m, 35. 2m, 36. 2m, 37. 2m, 38. 2m, 39. 2m, 40. 2m, 41. 2m, 42. 2m, 43. 2m, 44. 2m, 45. 2m, 46. 2m, 47. 2m, 48. 2m, 49. 2m, 50. 2m, 51. 2m, 52. 2m, 53. 2m, 54. 2m, 55. 2m, 56. 2m, 57. 2m, 58. 2m, 59. 2m, 60. 2m, 61. 2m, 62. 2m, 63. 2m, 64. 2m, 65. 2m, 66. 2m, 67. 2m, 68. 2m, 69. 2m, 70. 2m, 71. 2m, 72. 2m, 73. 2m, 74. 2m, 75. 2m, 76. 2m, 77. 2m, 78. 2m, 79. 2m, 80. 2m, 81. 2m, 82. 2m, 83. 2m, 84. 2m, 85. 2m, 86. 2m, 87. 2m, 88. 2m, 89. 2m, 90. 2m, 91. 2m, 92. 2m, 93. 2m, 94. 2m, 95. 2m, 96. 2m, 97. 2m, 98. 2m, 99. 2m, 100. 2m, 101. 2m, 102. 2m, 103. 2m, 104. 2m, 105. 2m, 106. 2m, 107. 2m, 108. 2m, 109. 2m, 110. 2m, 111. 2m, 112. 2m, 113. 2m, 114. 2m, 115. 2m, 116. 2m, 117. 2m, 118. 2m, 119. 2m, 120. 2m, 121. 2m, 122. 2m, 123. 2m, 124. 2m, 125. 2m, 126. 2m, 127. 2m, 128. 2m, 129. 2m, 130. 2m, 131. 2m, 132. 2m, 133. 2m, 134. 2m, 135. 2m, 136. 2m, 137. 2m, 138. 2m, 139. 2m, 140. 2m, 141. 2m, 142. 2m, 143. 2m, 144. 2m, 145. 2m, 146. 2m, 147. 2m, 148. 2m, 149. 2m, 150. 2m, 151. 2m, 152. 2m, 153. 2m, 154. 2m, 155. 2m, 156. 2m, 157. 2m, 158. 2m, 159. 2m, 160. 2m, 161. 2m, 162. 2m, 163. 2m, 164. 2m, 165. 2m, 166. 2m, 167. 2m, 168. 2m, 169. 2m, 170. 2m, 171. 2m, 172. 2m, 173. 2m, 174. 2m, 175. 2m, 176. 2m, 177. 2m, 178. 2m, 179. 2m, 180. 2m, 181. 2m, 182. 2m, 183. 2m, 184. 2m, 185. 2m, 186. 2m, 187. 2m, 188. 2m, 189. 2m, 190. 2m, 191. 2m, 192. 2m, 193. 2m, 194. 2m, 195. 2m, 196. 2m, 197. 2m, 198. 2m, 199. 2m, 200. 2m, 201. 2m, 202. 2m, 203. 2m, 204. 2m, 205. 2m, 206. 2m, 207. 2m, 208. 2m, 209. 2m, 210. 2m, 211. 2m, 212. 2m, 213. 2m, 214. 2m, 215. 2m, 216. 2m, 217. 2m, 218. 2m, 219. 2m, 220. 2m, 221. 2m, 222. 2m, 223. 2m, 224. 2m, 225. 2m, 226. 2m, 227. 2m, 228. 2m, 229. 2m, 230. 2m, 231. 2m, 232. 2m, 233. 2m, 234. 2m, 235. 2m, 236. 2m, 237. 2m, 238. 2m, 239. 2m, 240. 2m, 241. 2m, 242. 2m, 243. 2m, 244. 2m, 245. 2m, 246. 2m, 247. 2m, 248. 2m, 249. 2m, 250. 2m, 251. 2m, 252. 2m, 253. 2m, 254. 2m, 255. 2m, 256. 2m, 257. 2m, 258. 2m, 259. 2m, 260. 2m, 261. 2m, 262. 2m, 263. 2m, 264. 2m, 265. 2m, 266. 2m, 267. 2m, 268. 2m, 269. 2m, 270. 2m, 271. 2m, 272. 2m, 273. 2m, 274. 2m, 275. 2m, 276. 2m, 277. 2m, 278. 2m, 279. 2m, 280. 2m, 281. 2m, 282. 2m, 283. 2m, 284. 2m, 285. 2m, 286. 2m, 287. 2m, 288. 2m, 289. 2m, 290. 2m, 291. 2m, 292. 2m, 293. 2m, 294. 2m, 295. 2m, 296. 2m, 297. 2m, 298. 2m, 299. 2m, 300. 2m, 301. 2m, 302. 2m, 303. 2m, 304. 2m, 305. 2m, 306. 2m, 307. 2m, 308. 2m, 309. 2m, 310. 2m, 311. 2m, 312. 2m, 313. 2m, 314. 2m, 315. 2m, 316. 2m, 317. 2m, 318. 2m, 319. 2m, 320. 2m, 321. 2m, 322. 2m, 323. 2m, 324. 2m, 325. 2m, 326. 2m, 327. 2m, 328. 2m, 329. 2m, 330. 2m, 331. 2m, 332. 2m, 333. 2m, 334. 2m, 335. 2m, 336. 2m, 337. 2m, 338. 2m, 339. 2m, 340. 2m, 341. 2m, 342. 2m, 343. 2m, 344. 2m, 345. 2m, 346. 2m, 347. 2m, 348. 2m, 349. 2m, 350. 2m, 351. 2m, 352. 2m, 353. 2m, 354. 2m, 355. 2m, 356. 2m, 357. 2m, 358. 2m, 359. 2m, 360. 2m, 361. 2m, 362. 2m, 363. 2m, 364. 2m, 365. 2m, 366. 2m, 367. 2m, 368. 2m, 369. 2m, 370. 2m, 371. 2m, 372. 2m, 373. 2m, 374. 2m, 375. 2m, 376. 2m, 377. 2m, 378. 2m, 379. 2m, 380. 2m, 381. 2m, 382. 2m, 383. 2m, 384. 2m, 385. 2m, 386. 2m, 387. 2m, 388. 2m, 389. 2m, 390. 2m, 391. 2m, 392. 2m, 393. 2m, 394. 2m, 395. 2m, 396. 2m, 397. 2m, 398. 2m, 399. 2m, 400. 2m, 401. 2m, 402. 2m, 403. 2m, 404. 2m, 405. 2m, 406. 2m, 407. 2m, 408. 2m, 409. 2m, 410. 2m, 411. 2m, 412. 2m, 413. 2m, 414. 2m, 415. 2m, 416. 2m, 417. 2m, 418. 2m, 419. 2m, 420. 2m, 421. 2m, 422. 2m, 423. 2m, 424. 2m, 425. 2m, 426. 2m, 427. 2m, 428. 2m, 429. 2m, 430. 2m, 431. 2m, 432. 2m, 433. 2m, 434. 2m, 435. 2m, 436. 2m, 437. 2m, 438. 2m, 439. 2m, 440. 2m, 441. 2m, 442. 2m, 443. 2m, 444. 2m, 445. 2m, 446. 2m, 447. 2m, 448. 2m, 449. 2m, 450. 2m, 451. 2m, 452. 2m, 453. 2m, 454. 2m, 455. 2m, 456. 2m, 457. 2m, 458. 2m, 459. 2m, 460. 2m, 461. 2m, 462. 2m, 463. 2m, 464. 2m, 465. 2m, 466. 2m, 467. 2m, 468. 2m, 469. 2m, 470. 2m, 471. 2m, 472. 2m, 473. 2m, 474. 2m, 475. 2m, 476. 2m, 477. 2m, 478. 2m, 479. 2m, 480. 2m, 481. 2m, 482. 2m, 483. 2m, 484. 2m, 485. 2m, 486. 2m, 487. 2m, 488. 2m, 489. 2m, 490. 2m, 491. 2m, 492. 2m, 493. 2m, 494. 2m, 495. 2m, 496. 2m, 497. 2m, 498. 2m, 499. 2m, 500. 2m, 501. 2m, 502. 2m, 503. 2m, 504. 2m, 505. 2m, 506. 2m, 507. 2m, 508. 2m, 509. 2m, 510. 2m, 511. 2m, 512. 2m, 513. 2m, 514. 2m, 515. 2m, 516. 2m, 517. 2m, 518. 2m, 519. 2m, 520. 2m, 521. 2m, 522. 2m, 523. 2m, 524. 2m, 525. 2m, 526. 2m, 527. 2m, 528. 2m, 529. 2m, 530. 2m, 531. 2m, 532. 2m, 533. 2m, 534. 2m, 535. 2m, 536. 2m, 537. 2m, 538. 2m, 539. 2m, 540. 2m, 541. 2m, 542. 2m, 543. 2m, 544. 2m, 545. 2m, 546. 2m, 547. 2m, 548. 2m,

Well Wrapped has plenty of scope

WELL WRAPPED, described by trainer Henrietta Knight as "the apple of my eye", can continue his successful education by winning the Arundel Novices Chase at Fontwell this afternoon.

His first two runs this season suggested that he had plenty of ability - despite running out on the second occasion - and he confirmed the impression with a clear-cut 12 lengths win over this course and distance last month.

He carries a 6lb penalty but the extra weight should not be beyond his compass. Although an eight-year-old, he is only lightly raced and should still have plenty of scope for improvement, and he has, for the most part,

jumped boldly and well in his chases so far.

Lyphento is the likely danger. He returned from a two-and-a-half year absence to run a good third to Ambassador at Folkestone last month and certainly looks to have a novice chase in him, but the progressive Well Wrapped might just be too sharp for him here.

Miss Knight runs the top weight, Golden Celtic, in the Bet With The Tote Handicap Hurdle but the eight-year-old, who has been chasing, is passed over in favour of the specialist hurdlers.

The consistent Pashto should again give a good account of himself but I prefer the Martin Pipe-trained Capability Brown. He won two

handicaps at Chesham before being well beaten at Newbury, a reverse which came when he stepped up to three miles. It was noticeable that he did not hurdle with his usual skill and this return to a shorter trip should suit him.

The Bognor Regis Handicap Chase is a notably competitive event in which several can be given a sound chance. The highly-regarded Calabrese steps up from eye-catching wins against novices, but he could represent poor value and I feel he is worth opposing.

Fence Judge got it right when winning at Wincanton

last time but is not always the most fluent of jumpers, while Mister Ed has no easy task under top weight.

The answer could be Bonaparte, a proven stayer who was running over two-and-a-half miles - a distance much too short for him - when fifth to Eastshaw at Ludlow last month. He will be sharper for that run and will make a bold bid over this longer trip.

However, for the nap I go to Wolverhampton and Va Lee in the Beckbury Claiming Hurdle.

He followed up a good fourth to Easy Buck in a Wincanton handicap by winning a claimer at Taunton, and has since run another race in better company when third to the multiple winner

Tiger Claw, also at Taunton.

His case is further strengthened by an easy win from the winning handicapper Papajoto over this course and distance last season.

Beauchamp Fitz looked ordinary when a distant third to Sent Of Battle at Folkestone last time while Access Sun, who at his best would be a live threat, has been hard to win with this season.

Monumental Lad, a creditable nine-and-a-half lengths third to My Young Man at Haydock last time despite being 4lb out of the handicap proper, can win the Burnhill Handicap Chase off his correct mark, while Bounden Duty should justify probable favouritism in the Belvidere Novices Chase.

American expert hired to help Garrison Savannah

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

A SERIES of trans-Atlantic fax messages between Kentucky and Lambourn could help to determine whether Garrison Savannah wins the battle to defend his Cheltenham Gold Cup title in just over five weeks' time.

The all-important information being sent from the United States follows the decision of Jenny Pitman to hire the services of a leading American veterinary expert in the fight to overcome the physical problems suffered by her troubled champion.

Dr Richard Redden spent 48 hours in Lambourn recently, most of them trying to identify the cause of spasmodic lameness which seems to plague Garrison Savannah.

The nine-year-old has not run since pulling up lame in the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup on November 23, and he has only a 50-50 chance of defending his title at Presbury Park on March 12, according to Mrs Pitman.

Last year, the Lambourn trainer faced a similar struggle to get the horse right in time for Cheltenham following a three-month lay-off. She only succeeded with the help of Chris Day, a vet specialising in acupuncture and homeopathy.

Explaining her decision to call in American expertise, she said: "I wanted the best vet in the world for the horse. Dr Redden was an inspiration. His knowledge enthralled us, and there's no doubting he is a wonderful craftsman."

"I am hopeful 'Garry' will be able to run at Cheltenham, but I will know more later in the week. Dr Redden carried

out tests and has advised various actions. Although he has returned to the States, we are in touch via fax messages."

Mrs Pitman plans to invite Dr Redden back later in the year to conduct a seminar for the racing and veterinary industry. "Miss it at your peril," she advised fellow trainers.

Cheltenham was not far from the mind of several potential contenders were put through their paces on both sides of the Irish Sea. The quality racing threw up several clues, but it is doubtful if Sherlock Holmes would have solved many of them.

Even the bookmakers were in two minds following the unexpected defeat of Morley Street by Chirkparr in the Pasha Butler Champion Hurdle at Leopardstown.

Ladbrokes promoted Granville again to 5-2 favouritism for the Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham and pushed out Morley Street to 7-2.

William Hill and Coral each trimmed Granville again to 7-2, but kept Toby

Balding's title holder as favourite.

Balding yesterday refuted suggestions that Morley Street's defeat may have been due to breaking a blood vessel. "He's absolutely fine. I have just spoken to his lad in Ireland. He is up last night and was perky this morning. Our view is that he was in from a bit too long and he was a bit ring-rusty, having not run for three months. Also, the ground was too sticky."

It is doubtful if Morley Street will have another run before Cheltenham. If he does, it will be in the Berkshire Hurdle at Newbury on February 29.

Fidway has been called some unflattering names during his career and he has earned a dreaded squiggle from Timeform. However, Tim Thomson Jones's hurdler showed true determination up Sandown's hill to win the Agia Hurdle on Saturday, the race he threw away last year when pulling himself up in the last 50 yards.

Thomson Jones believes his talented seven-year-old is, at last, growing up and the ability he has always possessed may now be realised. "If all goes well on Champion Hurdle day, it will take a very good horse to beat him."

The most eye-catching performance, with the festival in mind, was produced by the Emsbridge Handicap Chase winner, Edberg, who is improving by leaps and bounds as a two-mile handicap chaser. His objective is the Grand Annual Challenge Cup Chase on the opening day of the festival.



Pitman: problems with her champion

2.00 BLUEBERRY KING

MANDARIN	THUNDERER	RICHARD EVANS
2.00 Blueberry King	2.00 Blueberry King	4.30 Here He Comes
2.00 Freezing	2.30 Almost A Princess	
3.00 Well Wrapped	3.00 Well Wrapped	
3.00 Capability Brown		
4.00 Bonaparte	4.00 BONSAI BUD (nap)	
4.30 Here He Comes	4.30 Here He Comes	

GOING: GOOD

2.00 CLIPPING CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS CHASE (22,067: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

1 3495-54 SECRET RITE 2nd (C.G.S.) (Mrs C. Carter) J. Gifford 8-11-10	P. Hild	88
2 3495-54 UNICORN NEW YORK 2nd (C.G.S.) (Mrs C. Carter) J. Gifford 8-11-10	M. A. Pinner	88
3 3495-54 DANCY DITE 2nd (C.G.S.) (Mrs C. Carter) J. Gifford 8-11-10	M. A. Pinner	88
4 3495-54 UNICORN NEW YORK 2nd (C.G.S.) (Mrs C. Carter) J. Gifford 8-11-10	M. A. Pinner	88
5 3495-54 DANCY DITE 2nd (C.G.S.) (Mrs C. Carter) J. Gifford 8-11-10	M. A. Pinner	88
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7 3495-54 DANCY DITE 2nd (C.G.S.) (Mrs C. Carter) J. Gifford 8-11-10	M. A. Pinner	88
8 3495-54 UNICORN NEW YORK 2nd (C.G.S.) (Mrs C. Carter) J. Gifford 8-11-10	M. A. Pinner	88
9 3495-54 DANCY DITE 2nd (C.G.S.) (Mrs C. Carter) J. Gifford 8-11-10	M. A. Pinner	88

BETTING: 1-4 Public Major, 1-14 Public Major, 1-14 Public Major, 1-14 Public Major, 1-14 Public Major, 1-14 Public Major, 1-14 Public Major, 1-14 Public Major, 1-14 Public Major, 1-14 Public Major.

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3.30 BET WITH THE TOTE HANDICAP HURDLE (23,915: 2m 6f) (7 runners)

1 14-2144 GOLDEN CELTIC 27 (C.G.S.) (Mrs H. Brown) J. Gifford 8-11-10	J. O'Connell	88
2 14-2144 GOLDEN CELTIC 27 (C.G.S.) (Mrs H. Brown) J. Gifford 8-11-10	J. O'Connell	88
3 14-2144 GOLDEN CELTIC 27 (C.G.S.) (Mrs H. Brown) J. Gifford 8-11-10	J. O'Connell	88
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6 14-2144 GOLDEN CELTIC 27 (C.G.S.) (Mrs H. Brown) J. Gifford 8-11-10	J. O'Connell	88
7 14-2144 GOLDEN CELTIC 27 (C.G.S.) (Mrs H. Brown) J. Gifford 8-11-10	J. O'Connell	88

BETTING: 1-4 Public Major, 1-14 Public Major, 1-14 Public Major, 1-14 Public Major, 1-14 Public Major, 1-14 Public Major, 1-14 Public Major, 1-14 Public Major, 1-14 Public Major, 1-14 Public Major.

1991 MEETING ABANDONED - FROST

FORM FOCUS

GOLDEN CELTIC, reverts to hurdler after a two year break, 4th beaten 20 by The Bywater (inc 20) at Leicester (2m 4f, good).

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GOLDEN CELTIC,

Pressure eases on manager Gould

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48p per min other times inc VAT**

MONDAY FEBRUARY 3 1992

Four-match visit planned for autumn

South Africans set date to play England

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

SOUTH Africa will play four rugby union games in England, including an international at Twickenham, in the autumn. If the executive committee of their newly-integrated governing body gives its approval.

The new body, the South African Rugby Football Union (SARFU), will not be formally launched until March 20, but plans are already being drawn up by its tours committee for ratification. When the SARFU executive meets on February 22, it will be invited to approve an autumn schedule embracing an eight-match tour to France, including two internationals, followed immediately by the four-match visit to England.

That executive meeting will also hear reports from the South African representatives who visit Sydney on February 15 for discussions with their opposite numbers from Australia, New Zealand and Argentina, which will include a projected southern-hemisphere championship.

But the South Africans are concerned that their new tour itinerary should generate funds for a development programme in the townships. "Our new body has no money at all and if we are to develop an integrated game, we need funds," Nic Labuschagne, the Natal president and a leading member of the SARFU executive committee, said.

This embraces the concept proposed by Joe French, the Australian Rugby Union president, last summer, that

a proportion of the money generated by the 1991 World Cup should go towards the development of the game in South Africa, especially in the townships, and to provide facilities for coloured and black youngsters. The South Africans have in mind the possibility of gate-money from nominated tour games going towards such a development fund.

The proposed date for an international with England is November 14, and the South Africans would also play England B. It is possible that such a match would persuade some England players to defer retirement from international rugby to play against the country which, with New Zealand, has historically dominated world rugby.

England's 38-9 victory over Ireland on Saturday brought from Philip Matthews, the Irish captain, the tribute that their performance was "probably the best of any side I have played against".

England lead the five nations' championship table after a victory which puts them half-way towards a second successive grand slam. Their next match is against France in Paris on February 15 and Philippe Sella, the French captain, admitted after Saturday's 12-9 win over Wales in Cardiff that England were "by far the best team in Europe".

"They are very strong and it will be hard for this young French team," Sella said. He denied that there would be thoughts of retribution from

his team after the aggression of the World Cup quarter-final in Paris. "We know each other well and have respect for each other. There will be no problems."

There were suggestions after the match in Cardiff that the French had flouted International Rugby Football Board regulations by making a tactical substitution at half-time, bringing on Olivier Roumat for Christophe Mougout to bolster the lineout. Roumat could be seen warming up five minutes before Mougout limped off, but John Davies, the Welsh Rugby Union doctor, confirmed that the Bègles lock was suffering from a pulled calf muscle.

"I wasn't prepared to let Roumat take the field before I had examined Mougout," Davies said. "But it was a genuine injury and his leg became swollen during Saturday night. It's so hard to tell with soft-tissue injuries. Pierre Berbizier [the French coach] said he was prepared to continue with 14 men."

Alan Davies, the Welsh coach, said that tactical replacements might be worth considering. "It would certainly prevent some of the accusations surrounding the game and would lead to some intriguing options with a squad of 21 players. It's difficult for the doctors at the moment, because there is no way you can stop a player leaving the field."

England's triumph, page 22
French win, page 22



Pointing the way: De Freitas celebrates his dismissal of the New Zealand captain, Crowe, yesterday

Rogue pitch takes a toll

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

IN AUCKLAND

THE calculated gamble of staging a Test match on a demonstrably sub-standard pitch backfired on New Zealand yesterday as England's bowlers, reeling in the conditions, all but settled the game with a day to spare.

New Zealand's ninth-wicket pair batted out the last 37 minutes of the fourth day at Eden Park but, with 180 runs still in hand, only a dramatic change of weather could logically deprive England of their fourth successive Test victory and a winning 2-0 lead, giving them their first overseas series since 1987.

Leading by 61 on first innings, England then amassed 321, including 114 from the captain, Graham Gooch. New Zealand were left with the well-nigh impossible task of making 383 to win, a prospect which vanished completely when they lost their first three wickets for seven.

Two of these went to leg-before decisions from balls barely rising shin-high on this roughish pitch. Bright green and unduly damp when the game began, by yesterday it had lost its colour, but developed some dangerous cracks from which the ball bounced at wildly differing heights.

It has been an inappropriate pitch for a Test match, as far removed from the recent trend of placid, draw-orientated surfaces in New Zealand as it is possible to imagine. Local observers have been astonished. Most expected the pitch to flatten out into a comfortable batting surface, something which has never been threatened.

Two New Zealanders, Martin Crowe and Ken Rutherford, needed treatment for painful blows in the groin as balls spat from a good length; others, pitching in an almost identical spot, scuttled along the ground.

It had come as no surprise to the England squad that a result pitch was prepared for this game after New Zealand's heavy defeat in Christchurch. But after they lost the toss and collapsed to nine for three on the opening morning, Gooch's team showed its fighting qualities.

England's bowlers have, throughout the game, bowled a more demanding length and line than the opposition and, yesterday, Philip De Freitas, outbowed by Chris Lewis in the first innings, responded with three deserved wickets.

The pitch conditions have been defended by the New Zealand coach, Warren Lees, who said he had no knowledge of any prior planning. "I think our guys would have been pretty happy to see this pitch when they arrived here," he said. "I don't see there was any point in us playing for a draw."

ENGLAND: First Innings 203 (D R Pringle 41; C L Cairns 6 for 52). Second Innings 321 (G A Gooch 114, A J Lamb 50).

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings 142 (M D Crowe 45; C C Lewis 5 for 31). Second Innings 180.

8 R Hartland c Russell b De Freitas 0
J G Wright bow b Lewis 0
J A Jones bow b De Freitas 0
M D Crowe c Lamb b De Freitas 59
C Rutherford c Stewart b Pringle 25
C R Patel c and b Tuffnell 17
C L Cairns c Russell b Tuffnell 24
A C Pearce bow b Lewis 12
M L Smit not out 12
D K Morrison not out 12
Extras 12
Total (8 wickets) 203

W Weather to last
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-0, 3-77, 4-108, 5-118, 6-158, 7-175, 8-175

SCORING: De Freitas 22-8-57-3; Lewis 22-8-7-2; Pringle 7-2-25-1; Tuffnell 17-4-42-2; Pace 1-1-0-0.

England on top, page 24

Teams fail to offer compulsive viewing

Aston Villa..... 0
Everton..... 0

By STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

A GAME plucked out of the first division's weekend programme for no good reason and shown live on television

yesterday afternoon meant almost aimlessly around Villa Park. Watched by just 17,451 spectators, the club's second lowest League crowd of the season, it petered out to a predictable tame and inconsequential finish.

The event could be a powerful argument against those who complain that too many

Sunday shows cover only the leaders. At least their fixtures tend to be enriched by passion, meaningful incidents and vociferous audiences. Yesterday's lifeless display was all but devoid of interest.

Aston Villa, who had risen to fourth place before Christmas, have fallen back into comparative obscurity since. Apart from eliminating Tottenham Hotspur from the FA Cup, they have not won any of their last six matches and have not even scored a goal in their last five.

That dismal sequence was only twice under threat. Tony Daley, with his blistering speed, fashioned both their openings with low crosses which fell to Dwight Yorke, a West Indian whose reliability in front of goal is usually assured.

His first attempt, in the sixteenth minute, was deflected by Neville Southall. His second, in the 53rd, beat Everton's goalkeeper but struck Martin Keown, who was stationed on the line, and nudged the foot of a post. Villa's front line, a combination of power and pace, was otherwise held securely.

So was Everton's, which has the relative stature of a row of dwarves. Inconspicuously, they continued to line up with two wingers, Peter Beagrie and Pat Nevin, whose crosses are inevitably futile. By the time they have engineered another method of supply, their colleagues are invariably heavily guarded.

Everton, knocked out of the

At Villa Park. Att: 17,451. Ref: P Don. Home League record v Everton: P 7, W 36, D 16, L 24.

HT: 0-0. ASTON VILLA 0 EVERTON 0
Scorers: Bookings: Subst: Olney 76 (Goalie) Werzycka 59 (Goalkeeper)

Shots (on target/total)	ASTON VILLA	EVERTON
4	9	5
3	7	2
21	25	8
11	8	18
4	4	6
32	32	31

Player	Goal	Assist	Faults	By On
L. Sander	1	1	1	1
D. Sander	1	1	1	1
S. Sander	1	1	1	1
S. Sander	1	1	1	1
K. Richardson	1	1	1	1
A. Daley	1	1	1	1
S. Friggatt	1	1	1	1
C. Rigg	1	1	1	1
D. Sander	1	1	1	1
D. Yorke	1	1	1	1
I. Olney	1	1	1	1
Unsubst M. Beagrie	1	1	1	1

FOR the third successive weekend, Everton have failed to impress with their small forward line which managed just three on-target attempts. Villa had a similar failing in front of goal, with four shots.

Friggatt was the only ray of light on a dull home side performance, which included 21 crosses, seven of them correct.

Compiled by Julian Dunsborough

FA Cup by Chelsea last weekend, might still have improved their recent record of one win in seven games. Beagrie, for instance, almost opened the way for Nevin in the first half with a distant drive which Les Sealey could only parry. Some ten minutes from the end, Nevin created a more glaring opportunity for Tony Cottee, who aimed his

shot directly at Sealey.

The rest of the game, staged on a patchwork of a pitch, remained only momentary in the memory. Stephen Friggatt is unlikely to forget it, though. Selected by Ron Atkinson for only the second time in his career, he was voted man of the match.

Canteens for Leeds, page 26

IOC postpones voting decision

FROM DAVID MILLER IN COURCHEVEL

MANCHESTER and other cities bidding for the Olympic Games of 2000 will have to wait until the Games in Barcelona this summer to know the voting system when the International Olympic Committee (IOC) determines the hosts at Monte Carlo next year.

The IOC executive board, meeting here yesterday before tomorrow's Session, again deferred putting forward exact proposals to the members. The board had discussed this complex and controversial issue, which indirectly has brought the IOC worldwide confidence over the past few years, at their last meeting in Lausanne before Christmas, when they also failed to reach a conclusion.

The further delay will cause some confusion for bidding cities, not knowing the precise terms under which they are competing.

If new regulations are to apply for the vote in 1993, they will have to be decided at the Session in Barcelona.

Yesterday, it was decided that the special committee of Keba Maeye of Senegal, and Kevin Gosper of Australia, both vice-presidents, and Francois Carrard, would look further at means of finding a situation that was acceptable to members while reducing the level of public criticism.

The board wishes to reduce the flagrant waste of money by bidding cities and, at the same time, to close the loopholes for alleged bribery between members and candidate cities. The board knows that the members are unlikely to vote for a proposal that would end their right to decide on the host city.

It was confirmed yesterday that the candidates are at present Berlin, Peking, Brazilia, Istanbul, Manchester, Milan and Sydney. There is as yet no sign of a renewed bid by Athens. Two weeks ago, the Greek minister of sport said publicly that he considered Athens, which controversially lost last year's campaign for 1996 to Atlanta, should bid again for 2000. Such a decision, however, has to be made by the Hellenic Olympic Committee.

It was decided yesterday that host cities will be prohibited from visiting IOC members in their own countries other than in exceptional circumstances of ill health.

The assistance given by the Solidarity Fund to National Olympic Committees competing in the Winter Games, which start in the Savoie Alps on Saturday, is \$1.8 million (about £1 million), a substantial slice helping those new participants from Latvia, Slovenia and Croatia.

Britain salvage hope from the cup wreckage

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN BAYONNE

THE last rites were administered to Britain's Davis Cup tennis challenge in Bayonne yesterday, the 5-0 whitewash at the hands of France being predictable enough, the manner of it less so.

Defeat for Jeremy Bates and Neil Broad in the doubles on Saturday had assured the champions of a second-round place against Switzerland in March, and condemned Britain to a long and frustrating wait before they discover their own fate. But, for a team in danger of being

swept away, Britain have provided stubborn resistance over the course of this tie. Only yesterday, when pride alone was at stake, did the gulf in class become more perceptible. Bates and Mark Petchey losing the reverse singles to Guy Forget and Henri Leconte, respectively, in straight sets.

Overall, just for once, the notion of gallant defeat so beloved in British sport was more than just a misplaced excuse for inadequacy. For moments in each of the two singles on the opening day, and the doubles, Forget and Leconte were reduced to the level of irate mosquito-swat-

ters. The British team just refused to leave the Davis Cup champions in peace.

"I asked for 100 per cent from my team and they gave me 150 per cent," Tony Pickard, the British team captain, said. "I could not ask for any more from them."

For once, too, the post-mortem can be set aside in favour of a more positive look at the future. Problems remain, notably in the weakness of our club system and the shortage of promising juniors, but if Bates and Petchey can transfer the spirit of their performances for country to the daily grind of the tour, there seems little reason

why two or three British players should not achieve respectability by breaking into the top 100 by the end of the year.

One nagging fear is that, when left to his own devices, Petchey, for one, lacks the confidence which Pickard's presence provides in the Davis Cup. But, unless he can arrange a squad session over the next few months, Pickard will not see his team again until the relegation play-off match in September.

When the team does reconvene, the benefits of the past three days should be reflected in the improved rankings of Bates, Petchey and Chris

Wilkinson. Quite what task will be determined until the summer. Whoever the opposition, a home draw is essential, because an away tie, particularly against a strong day court team, would almost certainly be fatal. Strong tennis nations like Spain, defeated surprisingly heavily by Italy, and Germany, who were upset by Brazil when Boris Becker was forced to pull out of his second singles match with heatstroke, also have to face a play-off match to stay in the world group.

In the meantime, the International Tennis Federation

will have to look closely at rescheduling its first-round dates next year. While upsets like the defeat of the world No. 1, Stefan Edberg, by Daniel Nestor, of Canada, ranked 235, are the essence of the competition, the top players have only two or three days to prepare themselves after the end of the Australian Open.

RESULTS (French names first): H Leconte 6-3, 6-4, 6-2, 6-4; G Forget 6-4, 6-3, 6-2, 6-3; Petchey, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2; Forget and Leconte 6-3, 6-4, 6-2, 6-4; Bates and Broad, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2, 6-4; Forget 6-1, 6-2.

More results, page 23

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Feminine beauty of a feral beast

Stephen Bayley
reports on the
latest low-slung
model of Britain's
sexiest car, and the
hopes and fears
driving its launch

When readers of *Road and Track*, an American magazine, were polled on the most beautiful cars ever made, two of the final shortlist were Jaguars: the ineffably phallic E-Type (1961) and the definitively elegant XJ6 (1968).

The Jaguar corporate story has the structure, texture and detail of myth: unlikely origins followed by a heroic youth, while a manhood of distinction fades into a melancholy middle age only to achieve an astonishing revival in later life. Jaguar was the creation of an ambitious, talented misfit called William Lyons, in whose soul artistry vied with salesmanship. Born into a Blackpool business called Lyons' Music and Piano-forte Warehouse, he began making Swallow sidecars just before his 21st birthday. By 1927 Swallow was packaging custom bodies for the Austin 7. On the back of an order from Henry's for 500 of this little special, Lyons established himself as a wheels-up car manufacturer. Swallow Sidecars evolved into SS which Lyons, mindful of the parallel activities of a different SS elsewhere in Europe, changed to Jaguar in 1935. He took the name from a first world war Armstrong-Siddeley aircraft engine.

Like Enzo Ferrari, a cunning peasant-mechanic, Lyons was not a trained designer himself, but one of those magical people capable of inspiring and synthesising other people's details into a magnificent whole. Jaguars were not Mercedes-Benzes, but cars conceived by a salesman of genius: there was a strong element of lash-up and make-do, of intuition backed up by borrowing from aerospace aesthetics and technology.

The XK120 was the first sensational Jaguar. Using an engine conceived by Lyons and his colleagues while on fire watch in Coventry, this astonishingly beautiful car (whose looks were a redrafting of the pre-war BMW 328, with its swooping curves and mammary mudguards) was launched in October 1948. The following May, in an event as important to the history of PR as to engineering, a stripped-down XK120 did 132mph before journalists flown into the Jabbeke highway, a primal Euro motorway near Dunkirk. It was established that Jaguars were fast.

Every Jaguar design is a classic, but classic status is only ever achieved from success in racing (which is why the Japanese, whose cars lack nothing except cachet, are so anxious to succeed on the circuit). In the 1950s Jaguar won the "Vingt-quatre heures du Mans" five times in C and D-Types designed by Malcolm Sayer, a professional aerodynamicist.



Top: the XJ220, epitome of Jaguar tradition, now an image-builder for Ford; the first 350 production cars will be delivered this summer. Above: the XJR9 — Jaguar has always depended on racing success

The racing cars of the Fifties led directly to the famous E-Type of 1961, a technical and commercial triumph certainly, but one whose design manages to distil animal spirit and mechanical necessity into a morphology both ravishingly beautiful and meaningful.

All Jaguars have the grace and hint of aggression possessed by wild animals, a sense of muscle under the skin. It is revealing how the vocabulary used to describe Jaguar design continuously relies on natural metaphors: indeed, evolution is the key to Jaguar styling, but the XJ6 was the last, if the most complete, expression of Lyons as a carmaker. In 1966 he made the fateful decision to sell out to BMC.

In the melancholy history of British industrial decline there are few episodes so depressing as the descent of Jaguar, first into British Motor Holdings, then into British Leyland Motor Holdings and then into Leyland Cars, a tragic farce choreographed by Tony Benn's terrifying MinTech. Jaguars appeared with hideous plastic Leyland badges and foul details sourced from the Austin-Morris parts bin. Sir William Lyons was himself not above a bit of inspired lifting, but this was destructive low church parsimony.

Just as the memories of glory at Le Mans were fading, Jaguars were achieving reliability factors close to zero. All the magnificent image-building work done by the racers and the sump of memory remaining from Sayer's glorious shapes and Lyons's showroom inspirations was being rapidly eroded by the familiar sights of

Marina-coloured XJ6s with trim hanging off and sparking on the hard shoulder.

Then, in conformity to the expectations of myth, a white knight appeared. In the Camelot of the Thatcher decade there was no knight whiter than John Egan, who dragged Jaguar from the swamp of state ownership into its 1983 privatisation. The demoralised workforce was mightily gingered-up and suppliers who

had grown comfortable selling garbage to Jaguar were made responsible for failures. Mr Egan introduced competitiveness and Quality Control. He invested in research and development. By the mid-1980s, Jaguars were even appearing with high specification German components. A business school case study of decline and fall had been translated into an example of doing it right.

The cars began to reclaim

reliability, and lost their raffishness. The XJ6 was Mrs Thatcher's preferred vehicle. When in 1989 I opened The Design Museum she asked me why we did not have one in the permanent collection. I was going to explain, but events overtook both of us... and Jaguar.

Mr Egan's achievements were very real, but too much in Camelot was built on sand. While Jaguar regained quality, morale and image, it was powered by unsound

money. Sure, the figures all looked magnificent in the blinding light of say, 1985, but they could not sustain close scrutiny.

In business terms, Jaguar was perilously dependent on one model (the 1986 XJ40) and one market (the United States). One blip in demand and, despite sophisticated foreign currency hedging, Jaguar looked vulnerable. Worse, it could not generate enough revenue to fund the research and development of new cars whose cost is routinely in the billions. Jaguar was basking in something which Ford discovered when it bought Jaguar for \$2.56 billion in 1989.

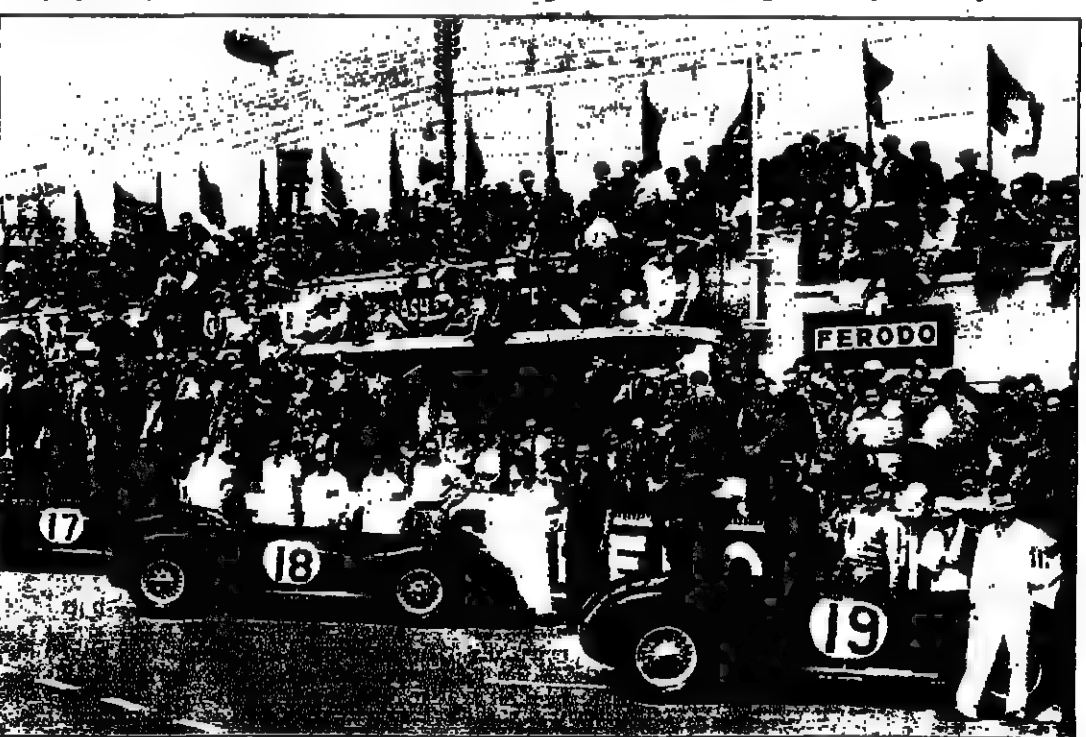
All big manufacturers have found trophy brands: General Motors has Saab, Fiat has Alfa Romeo, and Ford wanted Jaguar for access to premium markets. To some this marriage may seem incongruous, but for all his flamboyance, Sir William Lyons ran his business with a very sharp pencil and it is nicely appropriate that Jaguar, with its tradition of inspirational getting-by, is now owned by the Universal Masters of Manufacturing and Marketing.

It is a delicate situation: Ford needs to make Jaguar more profitable, but not at the risk of cheapening what made it valuable in the first place: image. The official line is that Ford reviews Jaguar's business plans, but engineering and design are independent. It is significant that under new ownership, the extraordinary XJ220, conceived in the optimism and independence of the early 1980s with a fine disregard for rationality, has been sanctioned

for limited production: the first 350 production cars will be delivered this summer.

The appearance of this quintessential image-building exercise has been the responsibility of Geoff Lawson, a Royal College of Art graduate who joined Jaguar from Vauxhall in 1984. Mr Lawson is keenly aware of his responsibilities of moving Jaguar forward, while not departing from tradition. He is articulate about Jaguar design: the cars must have a sense of movement, even when stationary; they must be feminine, but not effeminate; the radii must follow the natural inclinations of bent metal; the wheels and tyres and wheel wells are all large, with very little sheet metal above the rubber, to give the cars an impressive and tense feral stance; the glasshouse must have a certain formal relationship to the rest of the car, to give an impression of sitting in it.

The XJ220 may not have the original beauty of the E-Type or the XJ6, but it is a remarkable machine which confirms two things: first, the power of cars to move us, body and soul, even in these uncertain times; and secondly, that Ford believes in Jaguar. The only part missing from this myth is the resurrection of Sir William Lyons.



Winners: Jaguar finished first (with the C-type No 18), second and fourth in the 1958 Le Mans

Sack me with some dignity — please

WORKING LIFE: Libby Purves on the etiquette of the elbow

Not everyone leaves their workplace for the last time with a neckful of sherry and a carriage-clock. Last week the eyes of the nation — at least of all hirers, firers, sackers, sackees, chuckers-out and flouncers-out — were riveted upon the louché case of Laura Watson's Last Day. Mrs Watson is the Maidstone solicitor who, upon being dismissed, alleged that her employers behaved like "toads". She says she was supervised as she emptied her office drawers, then frogmarched — or perhaps toad-marched, or at least unwillingly escorted — by two partners and the personnel manager to her company car a quarter of a mile away, where she was divested of its keys. Mrs Watson didn't like this, hence the slander case. She had hoped, she said plaintively, "to leave with some kind of dignity."

The case ended in failure before the defence could say much, so we shall never know everything about what seethes behind the prim facades of Kentish legal practices.

But it doesn't matter. Mrs Watson's anger struck a chord, because while fear of the sack is one thing — we can all live with that — far worse is the prospect that the sack might be swift and dramatic. That all the comforting, familiar little structures of everyday working life will be shattered at one sweeping blow, in public. We have all heard murmurings in the lift, hushed as if after a death: "He came in at nine, went to see Gerald, by half past he'd cleared his desk." We shudder, imagining the squalid disgrace of the moment: not having a suitcase handy, having to stuff Tesco carriers with pathetic personal things like half-finished packets of paracetamol, electric razors, silly posters, one's office cardigan. We see the stricken faces of colleagues, pretending to be busy in the other corner of the room: imagine the dilemma of

what to do about a computer disc containing an eclectic muddle of working documents and letters to one's mother and headhunter; we see ourselves out on the pavement with a rubber-plant under one arm at ten-thirty in the morning.

If we then slide deeper into the nightmare we arrive at the scene in Evelyn Waugh's *The Loved One* when Sir Francis Hinsley finds his office re-labelled "Lorenzo Medici" and a swartzy young man inside saying: "Everything seems kinda screwy around here. I've spent half the morning clearing junk out of this room."

Sir Francis accosts his boss, who says: "Why, Frank, mighty nice of you to look us up. I appreciate that. I do, really. Come again. Come often, Frank."



"Where do I work?" says the victim, and "Well, now see here, Frank: that's a thing I want very much to talk to you about, but I haven't time right now."

I always took that as poetic licence, until I met an old man who worked in Los Angeles in the

1930s and claimed that he once came back from holiday to find his office door actually bricked up (although in fairness, the point he was making was that he preferred this attitude to the modern craze for outplacement counselling and relocation therapy and euphemisms like "We're letting you go." You knew where you were with bricks he felt).

But how do we want to go? Farewell parties are fine, provided your divorce from this particular job is natural and mutual. The main hardship falls upon colleagues who have to think of something amusing to write in your leaving card, and on whoever gets to trudge round John Lewis looking for a salad bowl costing precisely £8.36, that being the

total of the whip-round. Even if you hate leaving rituals, never underestimate their murky emotional importance. It is now eleven years since I left the Radio 4 *Today* programme, where for seven years I had contributed to salad bowls in a tribally close and happy office. Unfortunately, I was the last of a spate of other departures including the editor, so everyone was too fed up even to remember to sign a card. I was the first person ever to pass out of that office without ritual, and the shaming, incredible fact is that I still resent it. It is a missing rite of passage, unfinished business, unburred dead.

Sackings, redundancies and easings-out, however, leave a problem for both sides. Managements want a quick severance, preferably without sabotage. Their victims want drama.

The boss wants to hang around

to ensure that the departing one does not vengefully dial the New York speaking clock or plant gremlins in the software: the victim wants a chance to impress himself on colleagues as a wronged and tragic figure, not a buffoon with a carrier bag.

We want to make heroic little speeches to the faithful, like Sidney Carton on the guillotine or Charlie Haughey at Fanna. Fail HQ. When Desmond Wilcox left the BBC in not unstormy circumstances, he gathered the staff round, and some of them cried. Then one disciple said: "Oh Desmond, what will you do?" And he said: "There is a tree-stump in my garden. I am going to dig it up."

Mr Wilcox has, of course, done more than OK since. So I rang him up and asked whether there really was a stump, and whether he dug it up. "There was and I did," he replied. "It took ten days. After that I knew what to do next."

TOMORROW
Mid Life: Neil Lyndon

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TELEVISION REVIEW

The mimic stays masked

As the conclusion to Paul Joyce's profile of Peter Sellers, Best Sellers (Channel 4), Mai Zetterling, his co-star in *Only Two Can Play*, was asked what image came into her mind when she thought of the comedian. "Something I can't tell you", she replied enigmatically. Beryl Reid had already told us: "I don't think he had any definite ideas about himself."

For his own part Sellers once said: "There used to be a me behind the mask, but I had it surgically removed" and, "If you ask me to play myself, I will not know what to do. I do not know who or what I am." Sellers might have been the original of Woody Allen's Leonard Zelig, the man without a personality, forced into a chameleon-like adoption of other people's roles.

The programme seemed almost determined to penetrate the Sellers mask. Not that this antiquated style of interviewing is ever very probing. Sellers' former co-stars, Spike Milligan and Graham Stark and some of his directors offered anecdotes and impressions which revealed little or nothing beyond Milligan's kindly verdict: "a very nice man with a very tortured personality".

Sidney Gilliat provided one of the few insights: "He was fascinated by the challenge of playing utter ordinariness. Eventually he confused it with vacuousness."

The sense of mystery remained. The only biographical information the programme offered was that Sellers had a possessive Jewish mother and a father whom Milligan thought "was dead only nobody had told him"; that the star's growing eccentricities included capriciously firing people who wore the wrong colours; that he suffered heart attacks; that he died.

As for the work, the programme covered only about six out of Sellers' 30 years of activity, and referred to a mere half dozen out of his 50 films — the ones with which the interviewees themselves had been associated. There was hardly a mention for instance of *The Ladykillers*, *The Mouse that Roared*, *Lolita* or, practically, the *Pink Panther* films and his last, most touching appearance as a true nonentity in *Being There*.

The programme — an elaborate trailer for Channel 4's Sellers season — hardly seemed to vindicate

Roy Boulting's view of Sellers as "the greatest comedic genius this country has produced since Chaplin". Twelve years after the comedian's death, Dick Lester's verdict seems more just: "a vocal gymnast of the highest ability... an ability of magic mimicry".

Neck and neck with the Sellers programme, BBC 2's *Moving Pictures* offered a somewhat enervated interview with Skip Lévay, sound designer of the films of Joel and Ethan Coen; two British film-makers who, against all the odds, have managed to raise money to make their films. Mark Herman found \$10m in Hollywood for *Blame It on the Bellboy*; David Cohen borrowed a shoestring from his bank to make *The Pleasure Principle*. Apart from this we learnt little about the plight of British film-makers, except that some of them have very ebullient coiffures.

A longer item on the Babelberg Studios at Potsdam was more lively. Is this vast complex to be the monument of the new European cinema, or its white elephant?

The studio was established in 1912. Its history has been the history of modern Germany itself. After the first world war the studio became UFA (Universum Film AG) and launched upon the world the thrilling nightmares of the Expressionist cinema — *The Golden Metropolis*, *The Cabinet of Dr Caligari*, *Waxworks*. Strangely, no interviewees mentioned star director Ernst Lubitsch and his costume epic.

The Nazi takeover dispersed many of the finest talents. In an old filmed interview Fritz Lang related how Goebbels invited him to direct the film industry. "I told him I was tickled pink — and left Germany next day. But Hildegard Knaf revealed that even during the Nazi period, blacklisted filmmakers were still writing pseudonymously, as in McCarthyist Hollywood.

The Nazi years were followed by communism, the Cold War, artistic purges. The heritage is hard to live down; even so it will be a shame if the optimistic new European cinema loses this great production facility, so strategically sited.

DAVID ROBINSON

• Television listings, page 12

TOMORROW IN LIFE & TIMES

David Sinclair reviews the Rolling Stones' new film and Jeremy Kingston previews a stage version of Mervyn Peake's *Gormenghast* novels



"Tamba should have been celebrating her 13th birthday in Eritrea. Instead she was descending the steps of a plane, alone in a strange country with nowhere to go."

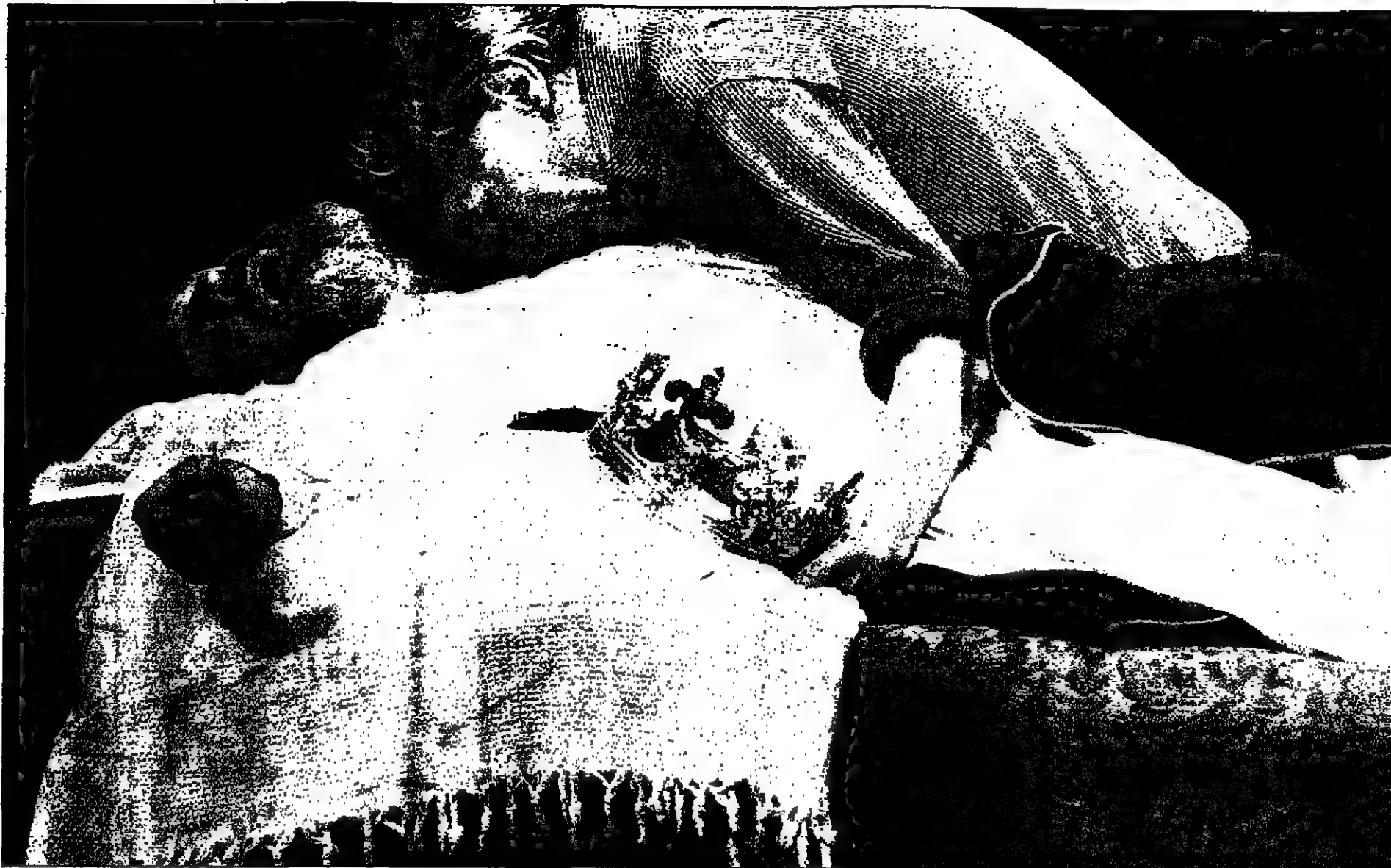
Angela Neustatter meets refugee children who arrive unaccompanied at Britain's airports and finds out how the Asylum Bill could make life worse or better

TES

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT
THIS FRIDAY 75P

Alarums and excursions

DONALD COOPER



Shakespeare renewed: Patrick O'Connell as Henry IV and Michael Pennington as Hal in the English Shakespeare Company's *The Henrys*

THEATRE

A blow-by-blow account of the English Shakespeare Company has been written by its founders. Benedict Nightingale dips into this torrid chronicle of thespians on tour

only ten years ago the larger sort of touring company, trucking its *Macbeth* and *Hamlet* from Liverpool to Newcastle one week and Newcastle to Plymouth the next, seemed to be pretty much a thing of the past. Prospect Theatre, the last of the species, had rather literally met its Waterloo in 1981. It moved to SE1, rechristened itself the Old Vic Company, and ignominiously expired, the victim of its deepening debts. Most people would have predicted that only tiny, tribal outfits — a *Monstrous Regiment*, a *Fairies Plough* — would be touring by the 1990s.

Yet now the larger touring company looks very much a thing of the future. It calls itself the National Theatre, the RSC, Renaissance Theatre or the English Shakespeare Company, and it takes its *Richard III* or its *Leah*, not just from Plymouth to Newcastle, but to Tokyo, Melbourne and Chicago, using foreign profits to help finance its British work. That is particularly useful now that most of our regional reps can no longer afford permanent companies of any size or quality. For some cities the burgeoning English Shakespeare Company, in particular, is becoming the prime supplier of Shakespeare's English.

That would have left me with mixed feelings even if I had not read Michael Bogdanov and Michael Pennington's book about the first years of the company they created in 1986. Now I have finished their remarkably candid, contribution to theatre history, my emotions are even more confused. After all, what has been the effect of Bogdanov's determination to "strip away meaningless clichés" and "open the plays out for new, young audiences"? What have been the results of Pennington's belief in "mischief and serious verse-speaking", "a not very English combination of cheek and intellect"?

The first and finest result was a seven-play cycle, *Richard II* to *Richard III*, that brought onstage gentlemen in frock-coats and waistcoats brandishing obscene anti-French banners, a Falstaff in a loud, striped

lounge-suit and a Gadshill with a Mohican hairdo. It was outrageous, impossible, but it fixed and buzzed as more conventional history-lessons seldom do. But last year came a *Merchant of Venice* which transformed Portia into Eva Braun and the rest of Shakespeare's more upbeat characters into anti-semitic creeps, making nonsense of the play's romantic pretensions. The approach that had once given the Bard a lift now sank him with hardly a trace.

Yet whatever the reservations about its work, there can only be admiration for the pluck, grit and sheer guttural passion that built the ESC into the force it now is. Here, perhaps, is the chief importance of Pennington and Bogdanov's tome. It is a case-study of an implausible success, instructively describing how to create a classical company, stay out of the bankruptcy courts, and live in hotels for months on end: all without quite going mad.

Actually, mental disturbance was among the many problems that had to be faced. One company member set fire to Pennington's dressing room, ran away during rehearsals, and ended up shaving off his eyebrows and throwing himself off Blackfriars Bridge. A distraught assistant stage manager opened a gala performance at the Royal Alexandra in Toronto by striding onstage wearing nothing but boxer shorts festooned with small, pink, copulating rabbits. The Canadian

tour never fully recovered, which was doubly unfortunate since the Mirvises, the Alec's owners, had put up one-third of the £360,000 it had cost to launch the ESC.

The Arts Council never gave large sums, and at the start just £100,000; and the British Council was at first positively hostile. So the company lived hand to mouth, unable to persuade some host theatres to offer even a modest guarantee against loss.

Pennington and Bogdanov regularly dipped into their own pockets and came close to mortgaging their houses to support plans that had already caused half their board to resign in protest at their lack of caution. And yet by late 1988 a deficit of £50,000 had become a healthy surplus.

Overseas trips — to Hong Kong, Tokyo, Chicago, Berlin — were the main explanation. Nevertheless, Pennington clearly understates when he writes that "the touring life is a hell of a strain". Only 25 actors were performing the seven plays, and that meant a system of doubling and understudying of perilous complexity. What was to be done when the King of France came down with pneumonia and Exeter with a mysterious virus? How was the wretched actor understudying them both supposed to play their joint scene in *Henry V*?

Actors who did not know a part in the morning sometimes found themselves playing it that night. One Sunday in Connecticut, Pennington died onstage five times, in roles

"Behind the acrimony there was a gypsy loyalty"

ranging from Jack Cade to the Earl of Rutland's tutor. In Melbourne, Jack Carr saw so many unexpected faces in one scene that he exited, thinking he had made a wrong entrance. There, too, the only stage manager who knew every permutation turned out to be pregnant and fell ill.

Touring took its human toll in others ways, too. Often, Pennington and Bogdanov became the butt of the company's rage, held responsible for inadequate hotels, or sausages that failed to appear at breakfast, or the half-finished Frankfurt theatre in which the cast had to perform in thermal underwear. There was even a mini-mutiny after the Earl of Cambridge fared while being arrested for treachery and Pennington, playing Henry V, lost his temper with his giggling fellow-actors. "I never really got popular again that year," he remarks.

Then there was the rehearsal in which John Castle, playing Henry IV, decided that Pennington, as Hal, was sneering at him, and slapped him violently on the face. There seems to have ensued a furious discussion about whether Pennington or Hal was responsible for the insult. Castle struck him ever harder, and Pennington walked out while Castle yelled, "you see you can't take it, be a man!" At times some actors were speaking to each other only onstage.

The ESC should not have survived, yet it did, in many ways triumphantly. There seems to have been a gypsy loyalty behind the acrimony, a spirit of adventure, a resilience and a sheer love of the work which saw the company through. They have renewed Shakespeare by espousing old thespian values. I cannot promise not to protest when and if they transform Petruchio into Norman Mailer and Katherine into Andrea Dworkin, and set *The Shrew* itself in Trump Tower; but they have already set the rest of the profession a formidable example.

• The English Shakespeare Company by Michael Bogdanov and Michael Pennington, Nick Hern Books, £14.95

ARTS BRIEF

Trained poets

LONDON's long-suffering commuters may have mixed feelings about seeing Keats's observation that "A thing of beauty is a joy for ever". Nevertheless, an extract from *Endymion*, from which that line comes, is included in the latest Poems on the Underground, which made their debut on 4,000 tube-train walls last week. Work by Marlowe, Plath, Apollinaire, the Caribbean poet Andrew Salkey and Maura Dooley are also chosen.



Superb: Anthony Sher

Last chance...

THE analogy Brecht draws between Hitler's emergence and a gangster's hijacking of the Chicago Cauliflower Trust is pretty clumsy. Yet Anthony Sher gives a superb performance in the National Theatre staging of his *Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*: a shifty sewer-rat, venomously eyeballing a terrified world from the top of a 20-foot podium. His charismatic posturings end on Thursday at the Olivier (071-928 2252).

CLASSICAL MUSIC

All fingers and plums

One perverse side effect of music competitions is the curiosity engendered by "that which might have been". The last Leeds Piano Competition was a case in point. While many present may now find it hard to remember who won, few will have forgotten Piotr Anderszewski: the young Pole who, after playing a particularly interesting "Diabelli" Variations, backed out of successive rounds because he did not feel he was at his best.

A cunning move: what, then, was his best? Not, one hopes, the Beethoven offered at his Festival Hall debut on Thursday. A rivalising orchestral introduction from the London Philharmonic and Franz Welser-Möst set the stage for a disappointingly narcissistic account of the Third Piano Concerto.

Anderszewski seemed mesmerised by what his fingers could do; which was, indeed, plenty. There were razor-sharp octaves, rhythmic repartee and notes which fell exquisitely into place in perfectly judged undertones. There was dense black and there was harsh white. But Beethoven's own spectrum of harmonic and emotional colour was barely glimpsed, and

Hilary Finch on the highlights among last week's concerts at the Festival Hall

the finale seemed to be running on the spot.

This was a week of virtuoso instrumentalists rather than virtuoso musicians. On Tuesday, Midori focused attention entirely on the violin and her diminutive self: Sibelius's music seemed incidental.

There was a purely physical excitement to be vicariously experienced in watching the young Japanese star struggle to meet the technical might of this concerto on its own ground. Her tactics were faultless: diamond-cut intonation, perfectly placed sweeping bow-strokes and a rhythmic rigor which dared the Royal Philharmonic strings to some thrillingly combative playing. The language of the piece, though, remained unfathomed, and the audience left as spectators at a stunningly executed dumbshow.

In Friday's concert, by con-

trast, the customary solo spot was taken by the brass ensemble of the Royal Philharmonic. In a most imaginative prelude to Walton's First Symphony, three of Giovanni Gabrieli's *Sacrae Symphoniae* of 1597 were conducted by Peter Bassano, himself a descendant of the Venetian family that played in Gabrieli's own ensemble.

Then Vladimir Ashkenazy conducted a resoundingly confident performance of the Walton at the end of a week of cumulatively revealing symphonic reassessment. His own advocacy of Vaughan Williams's Fifth on Tuesday had been no less convincing. Both this work and Martin's Fifth Symphony, which Welser-Möst conducted on Thursday, were written in the context of the second world war. Ashkenazy and the RPO, with their exceptionally fine string playing, seemed to be exploring a spiritual vision. In the Martin, Welser-Möst — equally appropriately, and with a raw energy — sought out with the LPO the maximum dislocation: tempo, rhythm and dissonance racked the work on its long path to ultimate vindication.

HILARY FINCH

1992 Award for a Choral Conductor. Applications are invited for this Award of £1,000.



Interviews and auditions will be held in Leicester on Thursday, 14 May 1992. Adjudicators: Peter Fletcher (Chairman), Sir David Willocks, Stephen Darlington and Laszlo Heltay.

Further details from the Administrator, BFYC, 2 Heathcoat Street, Loughborough, Leics, LE11 3BW. Tel: 0509 216664.

Closing date for entries: 21 March 1992. Sponsored by British Gas as part of their programme of community involvement.

British Gas

Why is a politician not like an undertaker?

For one thing, a day in the House of Commons could be even deadlier than a trip to the mortuary

Tony Banks stands bare-chested but brazen as electrodes are stuck to his nipples and a monitor attached to his bottom.

The Labour MP is not undergoing some sort of pre-election allegiance test, he's doing his bit to prove what honorable members have been telling us for years: being a politician is stressful.

The extrovert MP for Newham North West, London is taking part in a test to assess the amount of pressure an MP goes through in a typical day. It involves blood tests, a questionnaire and being wired up to monitors which record heart beat and blood pressure.

The day starts with a 6.00am alarm call and a dash to the Harley Street offices of Dr Malcolm Carruthers. Stress is clearly a lucrative business. It is Mr Banks's first sampling of private medicine, and he protests he is only doing it in the interests of science.

Dr Carruthers is also head of chemical pathology at the Maudsley hospital, London, but

he has spent the past 25 years investigating ways of coping with stress. He believes a form of meditation called Autogenic Training plus good old exercise are the answer. He helped set up the House of Commons gym and has a number of parliamentary clients.

"Being an MP is one of the most stressful jobs you can have," he says. "The hours are long, members have to spend long periods away from their families, there is a lot of public performing and you are very visible."

MPs apparently share their proneness to stress with policemen and journalists, while undertakers are least affected. Mr Banks looks remarkably pressure-free on the morning of the experiment. Then he gets the first bit of bad news: Dr Carruthers insists on five test-tubes full of blood from the MP's arm. "Norman Tebbit would be proud of you," Mr Banks says.

The questionnaire proves less painful. Mr Banks merely has to rate the stress factor of specific situations from one to ten. He is quizzed about personal relationships, work, money, illness, worry and decision making.

Mr Banks admits to being competitive but not very ambitious, poor on punctuality but intolerant of latecomers and someone who tries to look casual but cares a lot about what others think of his performance.

Most of his answers are relaxed ones and twos. But a question on a change in work routine gets a nine. "Neil could say, 'Ere Tone, how would you like to be Chancellor of the Exchequer? I'd probably die on the spot'."

Question time over, he willingly bares his chest to be wired up so his heart and blood rate can be monitored during the day. Zipped



Tony Banks: stress levels vary

up, wired up and hyped up Mr Banks strides out of the surgery and hails a cab, already late for a speech on a traffic Bill in the House of Commons.

A young Conservative member is on his feet in the chamber suggesting buses should have bumpers to shunt cars out of bus lanes, and harking back to the good old days of horse-drawn

traffic. Mr Banks interjects to talk about horse manure, and the fact that he used to collect it in buckets to sell to neighbours for 2½d a bucket.

The stress monitor is now showing a rapid increase in Mr Banks's heart rate as he starts to take part in the debate. The average person's heart rate when resting is between 70 and 80 beats a minute. The monitor shows the higher the heart rate, the more stressed the person is. Danger level is 220 minus your age. For 47-year-old Mr Banks, that's 173.

As soon as Mr Banks begins his speech — at 10.56am — his heart rate rockets to 129. As he gets into his stride it settles at 122; the adrenalin still pumping furiously.

Clearly some subjects make him more angry than others. "The roads are worse than ever," makes the monitor reading rise to 147. And it hits 144 when he points out

four people in four cars take up more space than a double-decker bus.

A dash to the members' car park raises his heart rate to 110; he is desperate to try to beat the rush-hour traffic and get back for a constituency surgery.

Getting into his Escort XR3i is almost as stressful as speaking in the Commons, according to the monitor, and Mr Banks's heart rate goes up to 99. He admits the job affects him: "It's a treadmill," he says. "I think I cope quite well, but probably because I am not really ambitious."

Dr Carruthers, later armed with the results of the test to present to Mr Banks, agrees. "You cope with stress very well, mainly because of your attitude," the doctor says. "You are occasionally angry and irritable, but you've got a lot of energy and a very positive attitude to life. Cholesterol and fat level is low, that's good. But you've got a

slight case of what I call the galloping gin and tonics, that's a mildly raised liver enzyme level. But then alcohol is part of an MP's life."

"My advice with an election coming up is to improve your handling of stress. That means more physical exercise or meditation. But overall, congratulations, it's a very good picture."

Mr Banks is pleased with the results. "I was surprised at the high levels of stress when I spoke in the House," he says. "I do feel nervous when I make a speech, but I didn't realise how much it affects me."

"I think it's another good reason why politicians should retire at 65 the way they make other people do. If I felt my old ticker couldn't take it any more I'd go like a shot."

"As it is, from what these tests show, I've got plenty of time yet."

FIONA WEBSTER

• Tony Banks's day will be shown on The Day on LWT on February 28, and repeated on February 29.

A home for all seasons

Walter Ellis finds the music hall still alive and kicking in a suburban house where the curtain has never gone down on a generation of stars

This is a roll-call to savour. Atlas and Vulcan, Apollo, the Two Bobs, Mrs "Atalanta" Bertram, George Formby, Queenie Leighton, Lillie Langtry, Ben Ono (and brother Jim), Wee Georgie Wood, Yamamoto, Yumo and Little Zola. There are others, too: 586 to be precise, headed by no less a personage than the Earl of Derby.

Together, they make up the Noble 600 — as varied a bunch as you could wish for and the sort of people on whom such stage luminaries of the past as Felix Mendelssohn's *Hawaiian Serenaders* and Fred Hearn, the Mummy's Dream, could ultimately depend. For these are the original benefactors of Brinsworth House, a unique British institution providing a final curtain-call for retired artists whose careers frequently stretch back beyond even its foundation, in 1910.

Brinsworth, a Victorian pile in Twickenham, is where you can meet 86-year-old Barbara "Red" Stenson, who acted as a stand-in for Mariette Dietrich in *Knight Without Armour* opposite Robert Donat and, as a one-time Tiller Girl, could kick her legs higher than any girl in England. It is also home to fellow octogenarian Dennis Hedges, the musical director of the Windmill Theatre for 24 years — the man who gave Peter Sellers, Harry Secombe and Tony Hancock their start in showbusiness. Next door to Dennis, reading a thriller by Alistair MacLean, sits the great Ben Warren, a recent arrival after his collapse during rehearsals for pantomime in Shrewsbury.

Older than any of them and eyeing her walking frame wistfully, as though more used to other props, is the reigning Queen of

Brinsworth, Winnie Whiteme, who can remember sharing digs with Marie Lloyd and, after all these years, is still indignant that so much entertainment comes out of "machines". Winnie is 101.

Presiding over this unapologetic celebration of music hall is Peter Elliott, the house's general secretary, who left school at 14 to sing in *Rose Marie* and acted as a stooge for the late Dick Emery for 15 years before taking over as his manager. Mr Elliott's office is full to the gunwales with photographs of the Queen Mother and showbiz stars like Roy Hudd and Frankie Vaughan. He is bearded and blazered and talks cheerfully of his charges as though he were their agent, not the warden. He cares deeply about preserving the dignity of retired performers and would probably like to assemble them all in a gigantic geriatric command performance. Well, they all would. He believes that Mrs Worthington got it right in the first place: no one in Brinsworth regrets a thing, but acknowledges that life on the stage was all too often "hard, bloody graft". For years, he says, artists "who hadn't made it as stars were treated very badly by management."

In old age, the difficulties could become acute, and it was to alleviate the worst injustices that the Variety Artists Federation was set up in 1908, under the patronage of established stars, like Dan Leno. Four years later, Brinsworth House came on the market, for the asking price of £1,400, and was purchased outright and given its present role.

Funding is the responsibility today of the Entertainment Artists' Benevolent Fund, aided by the Grand Order of Water Rats, the showbusiness charity, and star-billing, literally, remains a



Memories: retired actor Dennis Hedges plays a hand of cards at Brinsworth House; behind him, signed photographs of stars of the British stage and music hall

vital component of revenue. Brinsworth House just 34 residents — though several more have firm bookings — but is the administrative centre for a network that supports some 300 other beneficiaries, most of them living with relatives or in their own homes. It costs £1 million, and rising, to maintain, and without the annual box office receipts from the Royal Variety Performance it could very soon go dark.

Fortunately, the show goes on, and so does Winnie Whiteme. She and her husband were on the stage for 58 years, she says. "Our whole life was made up of dates. A date in Sheffield, a date in Leeds, a date in London. Now I can't remember any of them." But what did she do? "Everything. My parents, my grandparents, my aunt, my husband, my two sisters — we were all in the business. Real theatre people. Singing and dancing. Whatever they needed, we could do it."

And Marie Lloyd? "Oh yes, we were often on the bill with her. My husband and I stayed in the same house in Southampton. She had the front, we had the back."

Barbara Stenson's career is a splendid thing, incorporating cabaret, the Tiller Girls, Vera Lynn, West End musicals and cancan dancing in Paris. As a tap dancer, she performed on a huge top hat dressed in a fluorescent costume so bright it may have led to her glaucoma. Barbara — "Barbie" — shows off her photographs with pride, and without doubt she was

both beautiful and lithe. Reminded of this fact, she smiles brightly and there is a definite twinkle in her eyes. "Yes," she says, "I was a smasher."

There is an irony in the present position of Ben Warren. Three times King Rat and a long-time benefactor of Brinsworth, he has a room named after him just along the corridor. Now he sits sucking his teeth and reflecting on his partnership with Jimmy Jewel. Had he made much money? Life surges through the trail figure like an electric current. "Lois," he enthuses. "A hell of a lot. I went round the world three times." And now? "I've bed sores on my back and ulcers in my mouth and I've a bad cold and I'm not feeling very bright. But Jimmy's coming on Friday and we might go out to

lunch or maybe the West End."

He pauses. "Switch that light on, would you? The sudden brilliance illuminates little piles of freshly-laundersed clothing, not put away yet. He looks up. "Here is absolutely marvellous. They're very kind and they pamper you every whim. I don't know another place in the country that would look after old pros like they do." Another pause. The room is very quiet. "You know, showbusiness is a very rare thing. It's not like any other job. You reminisce a lot. You reach a certain age when you've nothing to look forward to but memories."

Next door is Dennis Hedges. He lost his wife, Violet, three years ago and, frankly, wishes he had died first. He is a trim, moustached figure, wearing a blue

blazer, grey slacks and one of his 46 shirts. Before he moved in to Brinsworth, he gave away his "beautiful" grand piano to a neighbour and got rid of his old 78s from the garage. He has four radios in his room.

With its walk-to-wall photographs, its theatre posters, its staff like kindly ushers and its blizzard of Zimmer frames and sticks, Brinsworth House is benevolence at its best, and a triumph of the human spirit. Frank Verdini, an 83-year-old magician from Prague, embodies the defiance. He wears his memories with pride. When he finally retired seven years ago, he realised he had nowhere to go and turned up at Brinsworth. His message was a bold one. "I tell them I am Verdi. I have come." And he had.

People may be dying because sex education has been neglected — yet too much openness can cause problems for parents

Tales of the "fat slags", two nymphomaniacs, are unlikely to be the sort of reading material most parents would choose to introduce their children to the facts (so-called) of life. But ask the average teenager where he or she gets their information about sex, and *Viz* comic, the satirical organ read in a thousand playgrounds, is likely to figure prominently in a distressingly short list.

The editors of *Viz* no doubt think it a hoot that by filling the void where sex education should be, their brutish stereotypes are shaping the sexual attitudes of future generations. But the paucity of sex education in our schools is more than a publishing opportunity. It threatens the happiness, the health — and the lives — of young people.

Latest figures show that the number of teenage pregnancies has risen for the sixth successive year. In one Manchester health district alone, 40 young girls aged between 11 and 16 became mothers in 1990. Last autumn the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists reported that the abortion rate for teenagers had quadrupled in the last 20 years. It is now higher than in France, The Netherlands or Sweden.

Pregnancies and abortions are the result of unprotected

Forced to face the facts of life

sex. In the 1990s unprotected sex carries with it the added lethal risk of HIV and Aids. Of all those so far identified as HIV positive, 20 per cent are aged 15-25. Of the total number of women with Aids, 40 per cent are aged 15-29. Most of these women must therefore have been

infected with the HIV virus in their teens.

Every recent report which has published data on the unsafe sexual behaviour of young people (which shows no sign of changing despite mass advertising campaigns) has highlighted the need for better sex education. The

former Chief Medical Officer stated in his annual report for 1990 that there is "an urgent need to improve sex education for young people".

The Commons Health Committee report on Maternity Services, published last November, said: "Health and sex education in schools may not be accorded the priority they require." The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists made 11 recommendations on sex education in its report on unplanned pregnancy.

Teenagers are, as ever, making the best of it. The number of girls under 16 attending a family planning clinic for the first time has doubled in the past ten years to 18,000. A pill or condom is no substitute for knowledge about how to handle sexual relationships, but when 83 per cent of young people claim to have experienced sexual intercourse by the time they are 19 it is better than no protection at all.

It is not as if sex education is unpopular. Research shows that 96 per cent of parents and 95 per cent of their

children want it in their schools. As one girl who felt her education left her unprepared to deal with the world of adult sexuality put it: "You didn't really learn anything about relationships at all. It was more about how sperm swim up than anything that would be useful to you."

Another said: "Teaching the biological way makes you think that it is something that is happening somewhere else. It wouldn't really happen to you." A third complained: "Masturbation, they never mention it, the same as homosexuality or orgasms, they never mention that."

Sex education is the responsibility of each school's governing body, but more than a quarter have no policy on it despite being legally required to formulate one and present it to parents annually. In an open letter to William Waldegrave and Kenneth Clarke, the secretaries for health and education, Margaret Jay, the director of the National Aids Trust, and Doreen Massey, the director of the Family Planning Association, call for a joint commission to be set up to develop sex education.

"The health and education departments have got to get their heads together and look at this on a national and local level," said Ms Jay. "The time for buck-passing must stop."

JEREMY LAURANCE

To buy or not to buy

I asked mum to get me a pack of six



feeding one meal too far? One father thought so. "Condoms are available in every gent's toilet. If a bloke wants to have sex and he can't get his own condom, he's a fool."

THE thorny subject of sex and teenagers has always provoked extreme parental responses. But the latest idea doing the rounds of coffee mornings adds new meaning to the idea of protective parenting.

"I told them they were in the bathroom cupboard whenever they needed them, but I would not be counting them," announced one mother, explaining her decision to buy condoms for her two teenage sons. No, she did not think they were "doing it" yet. She was not luring them on but "trying to save their lives".

Courting culture has done a volte-face. As teenagers we spent most of our energies concealing any sexual activity from parents. Now, it seems, we are being asked to supply our progeny with condoms along with the hair gel and acne remedies.

The recent stream of Aids statistics has prompted every parent to concentrate on the Safe Sex story rather than the Where Babies Come From version. But these latest measures in proactive parenting seem a bit much. It is one thing to tell them about the birds and the bees, but quite another to supply the goodies.

Isn't this taking spoon-

"They always go for the cheapest."

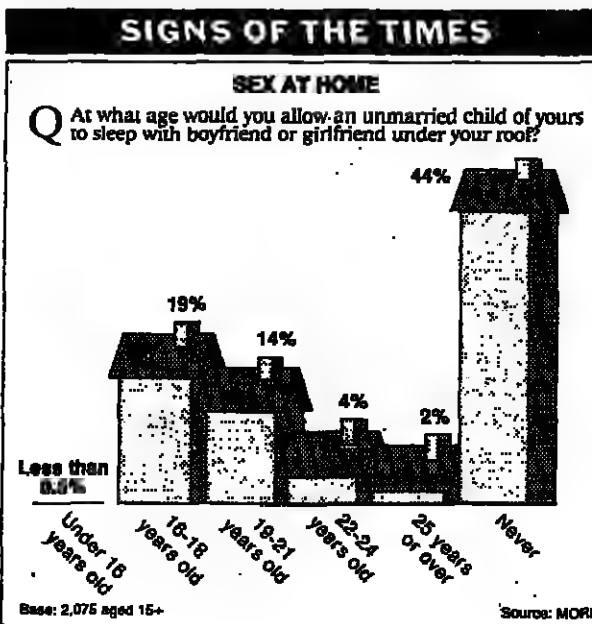
But buying them is the easy bit. How to hand them over? How would the unusual contribution go down, coming from someone they perceive as past her sexual sell-by date? Would it impose a pressure to perform or appear to afford a licence for rampant promiscuity?

In our day, to use a creaking parentism, the issue was whether or not to put your daughter on the pill. Many of the arguments were similar. But all you needed to know when taking the pill was that you had to be conscientious about swallowing it. No one had to teach you to swallow.

The truth is that skill in using a condom matters. Few teenagers — or adults — I spoke to knew how easily a condom could tear on a finger-nail or ring. Fewer still, that using a handcream or oil with one could cause it to dissolve in as little as 90 seconds.

"Supplying condoms is OK if it reflects a willingness to talk about relationships," says Alison Hadley of the Brook Advisory Centre. "Condoms in a vacuum are not much good." Must run. I have some shopping to do.

ADRIENNE KATZ



Hemmed in by fashion



From left: over-the-knee Chanel suit for the young; short and safe, for the Chanel customer of any age; the new skinny, unbuttoned, long skirt. Sportmax.

Short skirts are for middle-aged women," Karl Lagerfeld announced last week when he paraded Chanel's latest *haute couture* collection. Every hemline covered the knee, albeit some of them finishing in a zigzag of handkerchief points. The front-row line-up of short-skirted couture clients at his show — undeniably *d'un certain âge* — watched unperturbed. They knew Monsieur Paquin, the premier in M Lagerfeld's tailoring atelier, would whip up a nice short skirt for them instead. With legs still in good shape, why should they cover them up? Or would they be forced to wear long simply because short has been declared old hat?

You might have thought that by now the age-old phobia about hemlines would have lost its terror for fashion followers. There are more important yardsticks of good style than the length of one's skirt. But here we are, rational women of the 1990s, falling for one of fashion's sillier snares. For some reason, there has to be a "correct" position for

Does short in the skirt mean long in the tooth? Liz Smith says we should not care

hemlines, and anyone who attends the Paris shows is still quizzed by friends who should know better.

This season the hubbub on hemlines is louder. Short skirts have been the uniform for the past few years for sophisticated women anxious to avoid dowdiness. Far from wanting to look provocative, women hitch up their hemlines today because wearing a short skirt makes them feel sassy and young. The result? As always, once the short skirt became the status quo, fashion's reactionaries moved off into long. Or they dispensed with skirts altogether and took up the Principal Boy look of tunic and leggings.

M Lagerfeld enjoys a tease. Even he realised he was testing the fashion waters last week. Victor Edelstein, who dresses the Princess of Wales, showed a few long skirts in

his recent spring collection, and Giorgio Armani, one of the designers who made trousers chic for women in the past two decades, knows that whatever length designers show, smart women stick to just above the knee. "Fashion is not about long and short. Anybody worried about lengths is old-fashioned," he said after his spring ready-to-wear show last October.

And that is the problem for fashion followers. The self-confident will flirt with every length, enjoying the new sensation of wearing a long stinky skirt, while ensuring it is slashed or unbuttoned to be able to suggest a leggy line. Hopefully nobody will adopt M Lagerfeld's solution of dropping a long skirt in sheer chignon over every short one.

It takes a little while for the eye to adjust to every new trend, but it

appears that the long skirt is making a comeback. The prettiest are slim wrap-over styles and sarongs to mid-calf. Others button through, ready to be unbuttoned to whatever level one wants.

Cynics who think that the hemline debate is regularly hyped by retailers keen to get reluctant shoppers spending again, are right. Stores thrive on women's insecurities, and right now they are confused.

Vanessa de Lisle, a former *Vogue* fashion editor and now consultant to Harrods, is certainly going to wear the new length. "Right now, it is the daughters rather than the mothers who are trying it. In the end everyone will follow. You have to avoid looking like a Sloane mum — it must be carried off with platform shoes and a small handbag."

Francoise Tessier of Browns, the chain of chic boutiques in London, believes the new season's long skirts will be bought by her more adventurous customers. "There are a lot of British women who prefer long skirts who will be pleased to see them back in vogue," she says.

Givency spring ready-to-wear
Photographs: Christopher Moore

The golden rule

A little jewellery goes a long way for most men these days, finds David Toop

One area of male behaviour remains rigorously restrained: the wearing of jewellery. Despite advances in self-expression, not to mention Native American drum technique, men and their jewellery still enjoy a relationship which rarely escapes ambivalence. At their worst, men can accessorise themselves into catastrophic zones of bad taste.

Periods of recession are our equivalent of ancient divination practices. We observe the tribulations of Stringfellow or the financial woes of Gerald Ratner and conclude that flash Harry, the disco-dancing Medallion Man be decked with bracelets, chains, diamond-encrusted watches and rings, has vanished into the style archives.

Have we written off the Barry White and Liberace look too soon? At *Arena* magazine, the editor, Dylan Jones, thinks not. He restricts himself to as little gold hard-



Mark LeBon and his elaborate ring. Being married has forced him to wear jewellery

ware as possible. The wise-guy styling of Martin Scorsese's film *GoodFellas* briefly opened up jewellery opportunities for fashion-conscious men in their twenties and early thirties, he believes. "There was definitely a trend for it around a year ago," says Mr Jones, "although the trend seems to be moving away from that now."

Aside from fashion models who are paid to look ridiculous, the only men who can

carry off a look which depends upon a metal detector frenzy of gold curb chains, ID bracelets, pendants, diamond clusters and sovereign rings, are tough types who carry guns in their pockets. For Mr Jones, the only sane and decent possibility is a good watch. He recommends a Tag-Heuer or an antique Rolex for the *Arena* man.

"As with a lot of things at the moment," he adds, "people are into investment dressing, whether it's a pair of trousers, a jacket or a piece of jewellery — things that are actually going to last for more than six months."

Despite his reputation as a flamboyant dresser, Hamish Bowles, style director of *Harpers & Queen*, limits his jewels to a tie-pin and cuff-links. "They're always exaggerated and exuberant," he protests, "but I think I've gone through the phase of wearing less definitely prescribed masculine jewellery."

Solange Azagury-Partridge is a fashionable jewellery designer. She supplies cuff-links and rings to men whose occupations range from solicitors to pop singers, often using materials such as uncut diamonds in a self-confessed spirit of inverted snobbery. She enjoys the idea of precious stones, yet uses them in rough hunks that are not

recognisably valuable. "I quite like stones set inside the ring," she says. "For example, if you are wearing a wedding ring, you could have a row of diamonds set inside on the inner band of the ring. It's your own little secret."

Photographer Mark LeBon wears an Azagury-Partridge ring, a huge silver object dipped in gold and set with semi-precious crystals. LeBon is only interested in jewellery if it is functional, like cuff-links, or has sentimental value. He was recently married, so his new ring lives up to both requirements. "I don't actually wear rings, as a rule," he says. "But getting married, you're thrown into wearing one. What this ring does rather fabulously on the little finger of my left hand is distract attention from the wedding ring, which is absolutely glorious. I'd feel a right banana with just a wedding ring on."

Azagury-Partridge's guidelines are as strict as those of Dylan Jones. "Men really need a decent watch," she insists. "A wedding ring's all right, maybe a signet ring and beautiful cuff-links obviously. Anything beyond that just shows the wrong kind of interest in jewellery. You should be buying jewellery for your woman rather than yourself."

Stamp of approval

The Royal Mail has made a brave choice for the Queen's anniversary

WHEN Andy Altmann, David Ellis and Howard Greenhalgh graduated from the Royal College of Art four years ago, they set up a graphic-design company called Why Not Associates. The name reflects their determination to follow the philosophy that designers just wanna have fun.

Their designs, which are colourful, jokey and typographically anarchic, are as nonconformist as their attitude and they have been regarded with a degree of suspicion by many of their peers. But not, it seems, by their clients, which include mainstream names like Next, H&M, John Galiani, Smirnoff, and now the Royal Mail.

To be asked to design a stamp is prestigious in itself still, more gallingly so for their detractors. Why Not Associates have landed the plum job of designing the set of stamps to be issued this Thursday to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne.

"We are a very unlikely choice to be doing these," says Andy Altmann, "and I think it's very courageous of the Royal Mail to have chosen us." Courageous, yes, but not rash. At least three designers or illustrators will have been asked to present ideas to a committee and once past this stage the stamp has to get royal approval. "This is not merely a formal gesture," according to the Royal Mail, "... [the Queen] takes a personal interest."

There are five stamps in the new set, each featuring a photograph of the Queen taken at a different time in her life as monarch, each expressing a different role: as head of State, the Commonwealth, the Royal Family, the Armed Forces and the Church. The first features a

portrait by Cecil Beaton at the Coronation; another shows her with the young Prince Andrew.

Why Not Associates' usual graphic abandon has been noticeably toned down. "Yes, we changed our approach," admits Andy Altmann. "We weren't about to put dayglo corgis on it or anything. I had to ask myself whether my mum would like them."

Nevertheless, typical touches of Why Not playfulness can be seen in the new stamps, such as the irregularly positioned Gill type, the jagged silver and gold borders, and the background images which have been mixed and merged using the Paintbox computer. The customary white border has been abandoned in favour of "full-



Royal set: one of the five stamps

bleed" pictures and, for only the second time, the Queen's profile is absent, for the simple reason that she is, of course, already shown.

To the majority of people who will stick these stamps on their letters and bills, these are small details, but in terms of graphic design, they represent brave commissioning of innovative work. As Andy Altmann says, "We are satisfied that we have taken something that could have been very traditional and boring and taken it a bit further. Does his mum like the stamps?" "She loves them, she's ordered sets for all the relatives."

JANE LAMACRAFT

TOMORROW

"My little girl only plays with My Little Pony and Barbie — is she going to be a bimbo?" Victoria McKee discovers what toys can do for children, on the Parents page on Tuesday



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Threats to Soviet science

As Russia's best brains head West, Nigel Hawkes discovers efforts to preserve the Soviet tradition

Scientists are likely to leave the former Soviet Union in an exodus unequalled since the Nazis sent talented Jewish scientists fleeing westwards. Soviet science, once seen as the foundation stone of the nation's future, now seems to face a future as dim as the nation itself. There are believed to be 1.5 million scientists in the nations of the Soviet Union, a quarter of the world's scientific manpower.

Terry Garrett, of the Royal Society's assistant secretary for international affairs, says: "The scientists are facing critical problems. The whole structure is in danger of collapse."

Israel has already welcomed many emigrant Soviet scientists and doctors. Israel's scientific community originally numbered no more than 16,000 researchers, but since controls were eased two years ago at least 4,000 scientists with doctorates, 20,000 engineers and 6,000 doctors have arrived from the Soviet Union. One of the Soviet Union's strengths was mathematics, so Israel is now flooded with fine mathematicians. At the Technion, the Israel Institute of Technology, a quarter of all undergraduate and post-graduate mathematics students are Soviet immigrants.

The French mathematician Jacques-Louis Lions recently told the Technion faculty that the best work on convolution stability was done in the Soviet Union by an unknown mathematician, whose latest book was a masterpiece, but he had been unable to contact the author, who was somewhere in the Soviet Union. There was a stir in the audience and a tall young man was pushed forward. "I am that man," he said. It was Alexander Nepomnyashchy, who had emigrated to Israel.

Most Soviet scientists are unlikely to be as lucky. Those with the strongest hand are defence scientists, who have marketable skills, so long as they are willing to go to would-be nuclear powers in

the Third World. Not only their skills are marketable. A British nuclear specialist reports that he has been called by two Russian scientists asking where they might sell large quantities of lithium-6, an isotope used in thermonuclear weapons.

Augusto Forti, the director-general of the European Institute for East-West Co-operation in Venice, says Third World countries have offered nuclear scientists three-year contracts at salaries up to \$400,000 a year, to be paid into Swiss banks, if they will sell their know-how.

Last week the German magazine *Starr* said Libyan agents had telephoned the Kurchatov Institute in Moscow offering \$100,000 salaries to two scientists to work on an unspecified project in the desert. The two rejected the offer and told the institute. The Soviet nuclear scientists may be exaggerating the threat to improve their chances. Already the German foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, has proposed an international fund to finance a job programme for weapons scientists from the former Soviet Union.

President Bush is said to be willing to offer jobs to 2,000 of them, to destroy Soviet nuclear weapons and work in civilian research, the *Los Angeles Times* reported, quoting administration sources. Congress has already set aside \$500 million for this purpose.

In civilian science, thousands of layoffs appear inevitable. Boris Saltykov, the Russian science minister, told *Nature* he expects between 20 and 30 per cent of academic scientists to lose their jobs by the end of 1993. The government cannot finance research on the old scale. Academic salaries have become a joke. Laboratory directors earn 1,000 rubles a month, about £3. Subscriptions to overseas journals, payable only in hard currency, have been cancelled. Russia's own journals are now folding because of rising

costs. Mr Garrett believes agriculture and medicine research institutes will suffer most, as the ministries that supported them have been abolished. The finest laboratories, with the best scientists, are those attached to the Academy of Sciences. The old academy was dissolved in December and has been replaced by a Russian academy, which seems likely to become a battleground for warring interests. The younger, more radical scientists want to overthrow the traditional



One of the glories of the boom years: an artist's impression of the Soviet space station on the Moon in 1970

authoritarian structure, dominated by the academy and the all-powerful institute directors. Western academics believe the best help they can offer is to try to keep the most productive Russian scientists working in their own country. The temptation to offer faculty positions to the most talented is easily resisted, as there are few vacancies in Western universities.

Mr Garrett says the best way of helping the new Commonwealth of Independent States is to offer short-term fellowships in the West, which will enable senior people to keep up with their science and also earn hard currency to take home. Victor Sergeev, the deputy director of the analytical centre of the Academy of Sciences, is spending three months at Leeds University's physics department on such a fellowship. He says that if a scientist can save \$10,000, "that is as much as the budget for a whole institute".

He fears that the elite are being spoiled by the opportunities, causing bad feelings among lower-level workers, who lack those chances. Some academy institutes in Novosibirsk, in Siberia, have resolved that researchers spending three months abroad may lose their jobs. "A more efficient way to encourage mobility could scarcely be devised," *Nature* comments. The most imaginative idea has come from President Mitterrand, who suggests a foundation in Russia, supported by Western money, that would give grants to scientists.

Cars stacked by computer

A COMPUTERISED car park that could be built on small, previously almost redundant plots of urban land has been designed by a former Formula One racing engineer.

The system, which the designer claims would peg a parking space at £6,500, does not have the ramps or turning spaces that add to the cost and size of conventional car parks. The building can fit on 400 sq ft of land or the equivalent of three cars side by side.

This should allow city centre businesses and flat-owners to build a car park next to their premises, which depending on its height will take at least 20 vehicles, save parking fees and add value to the property.

Officials at North Derbyshire Training and Enterprise Council are so impressed that they are drafting a business and marketing plan to exploit the idea, and a factory at Chesterfield is envisaged for mass-producing the "kiss".

Ken Warren, the chairman of Derbyshire Textiles, who chairs the enterprise part of the council, says: "We are asking the trade and industry department to go halves on the plan."

Gordon McNally, the head of McNally Industries in London, is the designer of the

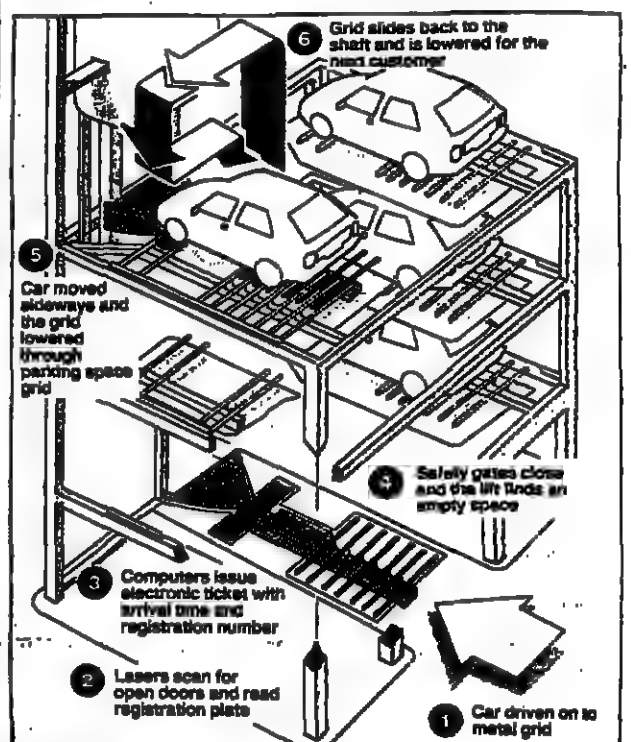
Compact Car Parking system, at the heart of which are four computers keeping track of the parked vehicles. The computers are programmed to switch cars to lower levels as spaces arise to speed their retrieval, which, Mr McNally says, is especially useful in the taller versions.

A driver entering the building puts the car on a metal "cattle grid" designed to be lifted up a central shaft. Lasers scan the vehicle to ensure that all doors are closed, read the registration, and code the arrival time into the computers and on to an electronic ticket for the driver. Once sensors have detected that the driver has left safety doors screen off the vehicle and transport it to a vacant slot.

The grid slides sideways so that the car is about six inches over a space before lowering itself through another grid, on to which it deposits the car. Mr McNally likens the technique to sliding the fingers of the left hand through the ones on the right hand. When the ticket is presented the computers tell the system to retrieve the car. This can be done in 40 seconds in a ten-storey car park.

Mr McNally emphasises the cost, convenience and security of the system.

NICK NUTTALL



Flood watch in the lab

A NEW national centre for modelling the impact of waves and tides on Britain's coastline is to be built by the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC), Nigel Hawkes writes. The sea will be modelled in a huge tank more than 150ft long and 90ft wide at Hydraulics Research, of Wallingford, Oxfordshire. The tank will be able to simulate waves, tides, and currents and measure their effects on real beaches made from sand.

that was begun last week by the SERC.

As well as modelling the impact of storms on coastal defences, the tank can be used for studying the movements of sand and the pollution of estuaries, bathing beaches and shellfisheries.

Britain has not suffered serious coastal flooding since 1953, but there is evidence that the dangers that this will happen again may be rising.

In addition to the possibility that global warming may raise the level of the sea, studies have shown that along the east coast storm activity has been at a lower level during the past 50 years

than it was during the 19th century. Dr Chris Fleming, the chairman of the committee that recommended the research, says a return to earlier patterns, combined with geological shifts that are tilting Britain, could produce east coast floods on the scale of the 1953 disasters. The Wallingford tank, which models the action of the sea on a scale of 20 to one, will provide the information for improving computer models of sea behaviour.

Dr Stephen Huntington, a senior researcher with Hydraulics Research, says there is no similar centre anywhere else in the world.

Vitamin lifesaver

ONE large vitamin A dose reduced deaths among malnourished children in Nepal by 26 per cent, says a study published in the *British Medical Journal*. Dr Nils Daulaire, an American researcher, reports that treating a child cost about 11p and might save millions of lives worldwide.

Genetic first

JAPANESE farmers expect soon to get the go-ahead to grow tomatoes genetically engineered to be resistant to

tobacco mosaic virus, to which they are normally vulnerable. If approval is given, the tomato will be the first such product to come on to the market in Japan.

High danger

MERCURY levels in the air over the Atlantic are rising steadily, according to German researchers' findings published in *Nature*. For 15 years the toxic metal's concentrations over the northern Atlantic have risen by 1.46 per cent a year and over the southern Atlantic by 1.17 per cent. The increases match the growth of world energy

consumption, suggesting that most of the mercury comes from burning coal, refining ores and incinerating waste.

Baby boon

SCIENTISTS at Israel's Weizmann Institute and Tel Aviv Medical Centre have developed a technique for identifying babies likely to be born underweight. A urine test identifies fetuses at risk of intra-uterine growth retardation in the first six weeks after conception, much earlier than existing methods. The compass uses a sensor to detect the interaction between the Earth's magnetic field and the fields created by its own spinning electrons.

cent of pregnancies and is strongly linked to childhood problems such as cerebral palsy and learning difficulties. The researchers hope that early diagnosis will help to reduce the frequency of the condition.

Mini-compass

AN ELECTRONIC solid-state compass small enough to fit on a silicon chip has been developed at Polytechnic South West in Plymouth. The compass uses a sensor to detect the interaction between the Earth's magnetic field and the fields created by its own spinning electrons.

The sensor could be used to create a compass to fit on a wristwatch, but it might also be used to detect the movement of a door, with possible security system applications, or to count vehicles and measure their speed.

Hunt curb

VENEZUELA is now protecting the *baba*, a small cousin of the alligator, which has been intensively hunted to provide skins for belts, purses and shoes. A quarter of a million were killed in the mid-1980s before the first controls. The maximum harvest is now set at 30,000 a year. Conservationists had warned that the reptiles were in danger of extinction.

Fly free, stay free, with The Times

Where in the world would you like to go on holiday? Europe, Asia, America, Fiji, Brazil, Australia? And would you like to take a partner along - free? Today *The Times* is offering a choice of first-class hotels throughout the world where you can stay with a friend, whose flights and hotel accommodation are free.

All you have to do to get that free place is to collect six differently numbered Fly Free - Stay Free tokens. The second token is printed below. Throughout the rest of this week, from Tuesday to Saturday, February 8, *The Times* will print a further five tokens. On Saturday we will also print full booking information, together with a price list for each hotel and the insurance details.

Sydney, "that blousy old tart of a town" where Conrad drank and Jan Morris once despaired, has changed in a decade from beer and pies to find a taste for champagne and swank.

What doesn't change though is its brash exuberance, its seductive tropical air, and that greatest asset, its vast natural harbour, perhaps the most spectacular on earth. In Sydney all roads lead back to the waterfront, to views of the famous opera house and harbour bridge. And it is out on the water that Sydney begins to make sense.

The Manly ferry is an easy rival for the 25-cent Staten Island ferry in New York. From Circular Quay it sails

past the bridge and opera house and into waters alive with yachts, freighters and all manner of work boats. The suburbs, like small villages, rise above coves that are just minutes by ferry from the city centre.

Sydney is red roofs, dotted in tropical vegetation and bird life and a saturation of colour that is startling to cold northern eyes.

The ultimate way to view the harbour and the Pacific coastline is a trip in one of Vic Walton's fleet of DeHavilland Beaver seaplanes. From Rose Bay, the old Empire flying boat base, they still fly north to Palm Beach and within minutes will touch down at waterside restaurants in the

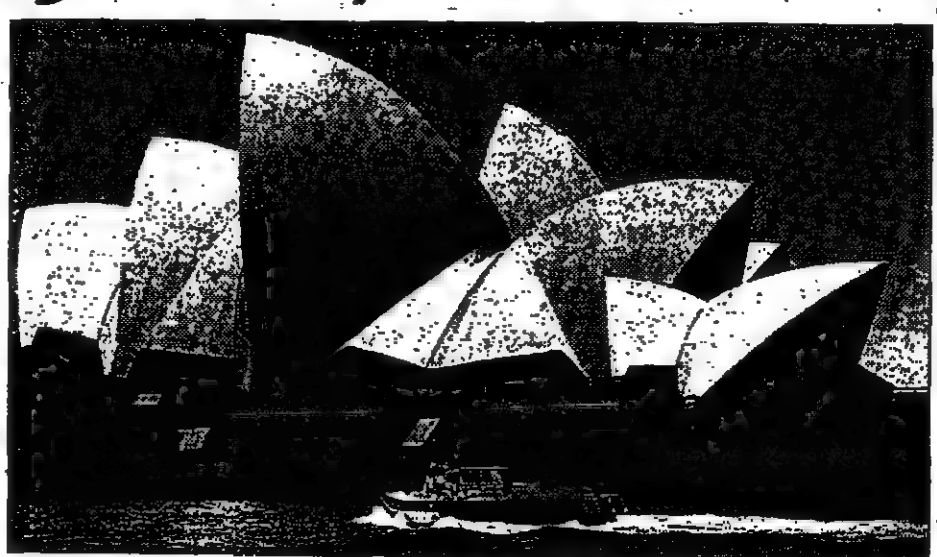
fjords of the Hawkesbury River basin.

Modern Australia is a little over 200 years old, and filled with often harsh paradoxes of a new nation built upon the world's oldest surviving culture. A visit to Redfern is a must for those curious about Australia's Aboriginal culture.

Another favourite on-shore pastime for locals and tourists is exploring the historic Rocks area behind Circular Quay, built by convict labour in Britain's penal colony. A convict family past, until very recently a source of real shame, is now flaunted with the pride of a roguish descendant of the Pilgrim Fathers.

Sydney is still a city of drinkers and gamblers, but some things, thankfully, are changing. Eating out is cosmopolitan: the Old Saigon in Newton, Gastronomica Chianti or Fatima's Lebanese restaurant in Surry Hills, or good old fish 'n' chips in Doilies at Watson's Bay.

And so to our Flexibreaks accommodation. What can one say? Your base could be at the new Sheraton Hotel at Sydney's Kingsford Smith Airport. This is the airport's only five-star accommodation, which provides first-class restaurants, bars, live entertainment and a convenient base for exploring the city centre (15 minutes away), the surrounding countryside, and flying off to your next Australian destination.



Sydney Opera House: focal point of the city, a must for any visitor

HOTELS taking part in this reader offer (The figure in brackets denotes minimum number of nights stay.)

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Germany: Sheraton Frankfurt and Sheraton Munich (2)
Italy: Sheraton Firenze and Sheraton Roma (3)
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Further information will appear each day up to Saturday February 8 in *The Times*. Thereafter for general enquiries call the Flexibreaks Helpline on 071-229 9660. For travel-related enquiries call Flexibreaks Travel Service on 071-387 2380. Mon-Fri, 9.30am-6pm (excluding Bank holidays).

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Harvard comes to Britain

John Ashworth argues a case for the London School of Economics to be sited down by the riverside in County Hall and suggests that some universities will develop along American lines

The public, according to a survey conducted by MORI and published last Thursday, requires universities to provide, above all, good teaching and equal educational opportunities for all their students.

Those who have children of student age and would be prepared to contribute to their tuition costs — a surprisingly high 39 per cent — also most value good teaching, but then place vocational relevance and a good academic reputation before equal opportunities as things they value.

Not surprisingly, then, the higher education agenda for the late 1980s was dominated by the need to increase the participation rate: to persuade the universities to take their teaching and research responsibilities more seriously and to make their curricula more "relevant".

That agenda is now common ground between the universities, polytechnics and political parties. The only real debate is about the rate at which it will be achieved and the cost. But what about the 1990s? Will this agenda continue to be sufficient? I doubt it.

The decision of the government to contribute to the costs of teaching additional students but not to give the universities the matching resources for research has made a stratified system of institutions inevitable. This may not be as rigid as implied by the R (for research), T (teaching) and X (for part teaching, part research) divisions recommended in the Advisory Board for the Research Council's 1985 report but it will tend towards that pattern.

We all know what T institutions

look like — much like the present polytechnics — and all our present universities (with the possible exception of Oxbridge) are indubitably X's. But what will an R university look like? How will it be funded and managed? These seem to me the questions that will be exercising us in the 1990s, and Oxbridge is not a conceivable answer, at least to me, to any of those questions.

There seem to me to be two possible models of what an R university in Britain could be like. The first is the French *grandes écoles*, the second the American graduate school.

The *grandes écoles* are small, elite, vocationally orientated institutions whose teachers are predominantly practitioners rather than researchers. Such institutions would sit uncomfortably within the large multi-faculty British universities — although many British business schools reflect this structure.

The more likely model will, I think, be the graduate schools familiar to British academics from their visits to Harvard, Stanford or MIT. The London School of Economics is already close to this pattern with 40 per cent of its students doing postgraduate degrees of one kind or another (compare Harvard's 60 per cent) and its concentration on research-led teaching. Imperial College and University College are similar in their areas of specialisation.

Whether or not that version of a graduate school comes about will depend on the view the University of London takes of its future and on the way that higher education develops in London.

I think it is reasonably certain,



A mission to move: John Ashworth believes the London School of Economics, with its growing need for space, would be ideally situated in the former County Hall



Space to grow: the magnificent frontage of County Hall on the Thames

though, that individual institutions (LSE, UCL and Imperial certainly but maybe others, too) will be seeking to increase their proportion of postgraduate level activity. The provost of UCL has publicly stated that it is UCL's policy to create a graduate school

and my own colleagues have argued that any expansion at the LSE should occur preferentially at the postgraduate level.

The LSE's future is going to be determined in the short-term by whether or not we are successful in the bid we have made for County

Hall. The school's premises in Houghton Street are cramped, crowded and desperately in need of refurbishment. County Hall has been lying unoccupied for years and needs to find a use that would do justice to its position and "presence". What more logical

than that the two needs should be satisfied simultaneously?

But it is not only logic that has led us to become increasingly keen on such a prospect. The LSE's needs for space for educational and research purposes are a surprisingly "good fit" with the riverside building at County Hall. For example, the high ratio of circulation space to usable space, which makes conversion of the riverside building to office use so unattractive commercially, is just what is needed to cope with hundreds of students charging about and the island site could have been tailor made for our library.

Perhaps it is not so surprising that, as a public institution, we find that we fit into a public building so well. But it does mean that we would be able to occupy the building without any extensive modifications, indeed, at the moment a complete refurbishment looks as if it would be sufficient.

But the aspect of the proposal which I find most exciting concerns what we might do with the space in the riverside building that

we did not need for educational and scholarly purposes and with the north and south office blocks.

We plan to use these spaces for what, by analogy with the science and technology parks that have been created around our provincial universities, I have termed a "social science park". Here symbiotic commercial activities, "spin-off" companies, consultancy and other activities based on "adding value" to the skills and knowledge which the LSE and its staff possess could be expected to flourish and develop in ways which we cannot predict. What can be predicted, with some confidence, is that the LSE would, through its "park", be intimately concerned with the development of the commercial and other aspects of London as it fights to remain in the next century the pre-eminent that it now has in financial and other activities.

That, too, I would regard as a vital aspect of any R institution that, like the LSE, is based on the social sciences.

John Ashworth is the director of the London School of Economics.

How to teach reading

A study of reading skills backs Clarke's three wise men

A working party set up by Croydon, one of the boroughs at the heart of the reading controversy, has come to much the same conclusions as education secretary Kenneth Clarke's "three wise men".

An earlier study by a group of education psychologists on 347,000 seven-year-olds in nine local education authorities, including Croydon, in south London, showed that reading standards had fallen drastically.

Determined to find the true picture in its schools, Croydon set up a small reading working group and commissioned a survey from the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER).

Using a standard comprehension test (100 equals average performance), the score fell from 98.7 in 1987-88 to 96.9 in 1989-90. In accuracy, the figure fell from 98.8 to 97.1. National figures show an overall drop of 2.5 per cent in the same period.

The Croydon report says that there should be more organised group work and whole class teaching in some schools. It says that it should be possible to ensure that all children can read to average ability by the time they are seven.

Paul Benians, Croydon's director of education, added: "There were some classes where there were groups of children sitting round tables with some reading and writing, others doing maths design and science. In some cases individual children at the same table were doing different things."

The main factors in teaching children to read successfully, the report says, are parental involvement, motivated pupils, a well-managed school, clear curriculum and assessment policies, and high expectations of all pupils, regardless of their ability or background.

The NFER survey shows



Helping hand: teaching at Norbury Manor Primary School

that 27 per cent of the children interviewed said that they had been taught to read by their parents. Very few, however, said that they had been taught to write at home. Mr Benians says that it was important to link reading and writing and to incorporate them both in other lessons, such as design, technology and science.

Teacher assessment of children at five will be introduced to identify those children who will not reach the average ability in national curriculum reading tests by the time they are seven. "This must alert schools to the need to provide a programme of more intensive support for these pupils, which continues to involve home as well as school and could entail extra tuition," the report says.

"Where early diagnosis reveals pupils with specific learning difficulties, class teachers should have training

in supporting these pupils throughout the curriculum. If necessary, additional support out of school hours should be arranged."

Extra help is to be provided for teachers and children and it may be necessary to open reading centres in the holidays. The working group also came to the conclusion that children receive considerable benefit from nursery education. In Croydon in 1989 there were only 600 nursery places for three to four-year-olds. The figure has now risen to 1,200 and further expansion is planned.

Croydon is not one of the 28 authorities chosen to take part in the reading recovery scheme which, at a cost of £10 million is expected to help about 15,000 six-year-olds to read over three years. Under the scheme, children will be taken out of the classroom and given daily half-hour reading lessons.

The maximum course is for 20 weeks but experience has

shown that many pupils reach the average reading ability for their age within 12 to 14 weeks. Brian Howes, the chief education inspector, said that Croydon would hope to begin work on a similar programme for its schools in April.

Diane Pounder, the head of the 345 pupil Norbury Manor Primary School, was chosen by her fellow heads to co-operate with the working party. She said: "The report is good commonsense which many of us have wanted to say for a very long time."

Mrs Pounder is not convinced, however, that there should be a widespread return to whole class teaching. She says: "The appropriate grouping depends on what and who you are teaching. Whole class teaching is sometimes used if we are introducing something that is new or relevant to the whole class or a lesson such as music and physical education. But it would, for example, be impracticable if children were doing an experiment."

Mrs Pounder's school has a high turnover of pupils because many of the families in the area are in temporary accommodation. Up to 30 nationalities are represented in Norbury Manor, speaking a total of 20 languages.

While accepting that this did make for difficulties in teaching reading and writing, Mrs Pounder says that there are other equally important factors. Only 10 per cent of the children in the school's high band of achievement came from families on income support while the figure rose to 60 per cent of those in the low band.

She has some doubts, too, whether it would be possible to turn every child into a competent reader by seven. "These proposals are an effective way of moving towards this but they will not guarantee it," she says.

"There will always be some children who will need extra support. They can make tremendous progress but still not be able to read by seven. But we will now all look at ways of doing more and doing better."

DAVID ALEXANDER

CHANGING STANDARDS

	Reading comprehension	Accuracy
1984-5	99.0	99.7
1985-6	99.1	99.6
1986-7	99.2	99.4
1987-8	98.7	98.8
1988-9	97.4	97.7
1989-90	96.9	97.1

Source: NFER assessment in Croydon
Figures based on a score of 100

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BBC 1

- 6.00 **Cee-fax** (65512) 6.30 **Breakfast News** (70158491)
9.05 **Kilroy**. Robert Kilroy-Silk hosts a studio discussion (4518628)
9.50 **Hot Chets**. Biotro-style food (5516408)
10.00 **News**, regional news and weather (5373319) 10.00 **Playdays** (r) (1032841) 10.25 **Flings** (r) (5378408) 10.35 **No Kidding**. Mike Smith hosts the family quiz (5456777)
11.00 **News**, regional news and weather (7442512) 11.05 **Rosemary Conley** advises on diet and exercise (7733551) 11.30 **People Today** celebrates the Queen's fortieth anniversary as monarch, and the Chinese new year (1628)
12.00 **News**, regional news and weather (2005425) 12.20 **Pebble Mill** (r) (3325512) 12.55 **Regional news** and weather (90422154)
1.00 **News**, regional news and weather (12628)
1.30 **Neighbours**. (Cee-fax) (r) (8054445)
1.50 **Going for Gold**. Henry Kelly hosts the European quiz (6054824)
2.15 **Snooker**. Benson and Hedges Masters. Eamonn Holmes introduces live coverage of the match between Gary Wilkinson and Alain Robidoux, and highlights of the preliminary round match between Tony Jones and Ken Doherty (7087135)
3.00 **Holiday**. Anna Lisa provides the clues for this year's **Radio Times**/holiday competition (655251)
3.25 **Bazaar** with Neve Hughes (6681086)
3.50 **Children's BBC**. **Barney** (r) (5194135) 3.55 **Radio Roo**. Fifth of a 13-part comedy drama (r) (8200828) 4.10 **The Stanley Stories**. Flat Stanley. David Healy reads the first of three stories by Jeff Brown for **Jackanory** (573357) 4.25 **Fantastic Max** (r) (5394203) 4.35 **Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles**. (Cee-fax) (2780338) 5.00 **Newsworld** (103884) 5.05 **Blue Peter**. (Cee-fax) (r) (5819525)
5.35 **Neighbours**. (r) (Cee-fax) (225251) 5.45 **Inside Ulster** 6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart. (Cee-fax) Weather (96)
6.30 **Regional news** magazines (48). Northern Ireland: **Neighbours** (r). (Cee-fax)
7.00 **Wogan**. In the last of Terry Wogan's political debates for election year, Conservative party spokesman answer questions put by the audience. The panel includes: Michael Heseltine (environment), Tom King (defence), Angela Rumbold (home affairs) and William Wakefield (health) (r) (8661)

Watch out: Lynn Faulds Wood and John Stapleton (7.30pm)

- 7.30 **Watchdog**. John Stapleton investigates the Family Health Service Authority which deals with complaints against GPs (32)
8.00 **May to December**. Languid romantic comedy starring Alan Rodgers and Lesley Dunlop (r). (Cee-fax) (4608)
8.30 **Wildlife on One**. When the Fish Come Out
● **CHOICE**: Say the word quickly and it sounds like "hooligan" but the fish in this stirring film by wildlife specialists Mark Deeble and Victoria Stone are actually called eelchips. They are small and innocuous and spend most of their life at sea. But once a year they gather in their millions, and this is no exaggeration, to swim up remote rivers to spawn. As they do so they become a tasty meal for their fearsome predators as humpback whales, seals, sea lions and bald eagles. Men, too, takes his cut. The fearless Deeble and Stone report on the slaughter from uninviting waters around Alaska, with huge and hungry whales seemingly poised to gobble them up. Happily the awesome mammals skip Deeble and Stone and go for the eelchips instead, consuming up to a ton of fish a day. It is a film to make you glad of the comfort of your living room. (Cee-fax) (r) (3116)
9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** with Michael Buerk. (Cee-fax) Regional news and weather (1785)
9.30 **Paranormal**. The Third Man. Paddy Ashdown, the leader of the Liberal Democrats, may hold the balance of power in the event of a hung parliament after the general election. Gavin Hewitt considers what the politician and his party stand for (75222)
10.10 **Snooker**. Benson and Hedges Masters. Eamonn Holmes introduces the match between former masters Jimmy White and Doug Mountjoy (418785)
11.10 **Gardens by Design** with David Stevens (r). (Cee-fax) (745996)
11.40 **Advice Shop** investigates home fires (r) (514338)
12.00 **Weather** (7384346) 12.05 **Close** (227636)
2.00 **The Way Ahead**. Third of 12 programmes on April's new benefits for disabled people (3200588). Ends at 2.15

BBC 2

- 8.00 **Breakfast News** (2805608) 8.15 **Westminster** (2888932)
8.30 **Antiques at Home**. Michael Newman visits a period 1930s cliff-top bungalow at Zennor, close to Land's End (r) (20066)
9.00 **Daytime on Two**
9.30 **News and weather** (1085222) followed by **Storytime** **Desperate for a Dog** (r) (7440338)
10.15 **Impressions**. A day at RAF Colishall in Norfolk (r) (7449222)
10.25 **Songs of Praise** from Olney (r). (Cee-fax) (r) (937680)
11.00 **News and weather** (8244777) followed by **Snooker**: Benson and Hedges Masters. Eamonn Holmes presents further coverage of the match between Gary Wilkinson and Alain Robidoux from the Wembley Conference Centre (7018554) 3.50 **News and weather**, regional news and weather (702540)
4.00 **One in Four**. Mike Scott tells why it is so difficult for disabled teenagers to break in to the contemporary music business (51)
4.30 **Behind the Headlines** with Jane Corbin (r) (45)
5.00 **Cricket**: Second Test. Peter Williams introduces highlights of the match between New Zealand and England (8007)
5.30 **Film** '32 with Barry Norman (r) (25)
6.00 **A Question of Sport** (r). (Cee-fax) (r) (28)
6.30 **100 Great Sporting Moments**. Torvill and Dean perform their historic routine in the 1983 world ice skating championship (52238)
6.40 **Def** It's The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air. Will and his girlfriend Kathleen are trapped in a basement after an earthquake (522880)
7.05 **Def** It's Open to Question. Bernadette McAliskey, former Northern Ireland MP, faces questions from a studio audience (261808)
7.40 **Voices from the Past**. **Black Majesty** - Africa 1898 (u/y). Lawrence Threlkeld's 11,000-mile safari across Africa (55241)
8.10 **Horizon**. **Malaria** - battle of the microcosms
● **CHOICE**: Malaria kills more people than any other parasitic disease. Some 40 per cent of the world's population is exposed to malaria and the victims include two million children a year. In the early 1960s a Colombian chemist, Dr Manuel Patarroyo, claimed to have come up with the answer - the first effective vaccine. But his findings and reputation have come under intense scrutiny from the Western scientific establishment. Five years after Dr Patarroyo published his results the debate still rages. Is the vaccine one of the most important scientific advances of the century or a false promise? Teresa Hunt's film is a fair-minded attempt to weigh the evidence. Dr Patarroyo is eloquent and persuasive but has so far failed to kill the debate. Among the sceptics is our own Medical Research Council. Underlining the after is the suspicion that the first world is doubting the competence of third world science. (Cee-fax) (r) (147115)



A hero delamated: Daniel Massey talks to his parrot (9.00pm)

- 9.00 **Bye Bye Columbus**
● **CHOICE**: Any idea that we should be celebrating Christopher Columbus, 500 years after his famous voyage to the Caribbean, as some sort of a hero is strongly contested in this debunking drama by the playwright Peter Barnes. In the version according to Barnes, Columbus (Daniel Massey) is a cynical materialist, determined to take his 10 per cent cut of the new world's riches. He manages to persuade the Spanish royals, Ferdinand and Isabella (Alex Jennings and Harriet Walter), to back his trip, only to discover that they are just as greedy and unprincipled as he is. When he gets to the Caribbean he deserts his partner (Timothy West) and is convinced that Cuba is part of India. A gloomily-ill studio drama. **Colony** (r) (514338) 9.30 **News and weather** (8244777) 9.40 **Colony** (r) (514338) 10.10 **News and weather** (8244777) 10.20 **Colony** (r) (514338) 10.30 **News and weather** (8244777) 10.40 **Colony** (r) (514338) 10.50 **News and weather** (8244777) 11.00 **Colony** (r) (514338) 11.10 **News and weather** (8244777) 11.20 **Colony** (r) (514338) 11.30 **News and weather** (8244777) 11.40 **Colony** (r) (514338) 11.50 **News and weather** (8244777) 12.00 **Colony** (r) (514338) 12.10 **News and weather** (8244777) 12.20 **Colony** (r) (514338) 12.30 **News and weather** (8244777) 12.40 **Colony** (r) (514338) 12.50 **News and weather** (8244777) 1.00 **Colony** (r) (514338) 1.10 **News and weather** (8244777) 1.20 **Colony** (r) (514338) 1.30 **News and weather** (8244777) 1.40 **Colony** (r) (514338) 1.50 **News and weather** (8244777) 2.00 **Colony** (r) (514338) 2.10 **News and weather** (8244777) 2.20 **Colony** (r) (514338) 2.30 **News and 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